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CONTENTS

26 July 1990

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saddam Sets 'Precondition' for Talks With Kuwait *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Kuwaiti, Iraqi Experts To Meet in Jeddah 28 Jul *[KUNA]* 1
Iraq, Kuwait Reportedly Stop Media Campaign *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Press Conference on Arab League-EEC Talks *[MAP]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Sabri Al-Banna Group Reported 'Annihilated' *[Paris LE FIGARO 24 Jul]* 2
'Arafat Meets EEC Foreign Ministers in Tunis *[Sanaa VOP]* 3
'Arafat Urges CSFR's Havel To Support Peace *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
PLO To Respond to Swedish Message on Dialogue *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 24 Jul]* 4
PLO Issues Communique on South Lebanon Fighting *[Sanaa VOP]* 4

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Opens 87th Conference in Geneva 26 Jul *[Vienna OPECNA]* 5
Unified Arab Economic Report on Oil Reserves *[KUNA]* 5
Oil Prices Expected To Rise to $25 by Year's End *[Voice of the Masses]* 5
OPEC President Urges Oil Price Stability *[APS]* 5
OPEC Oil Ministers Discuss Quotas, Prices 6
    Libya Calls for Quota Increase *[Jeddah UKAZ 16 Jul]* 6
    Iraq's Al-Jalabi Comments *[Vienna OPECNA]* 6
    Gabon To Seek Higher Prices *[Vienna OPECNA]* 6
    Ministers State Positions *[Vienna OPECNA]* 7
    Kuwait on Price Issues *[KUNA]* 8
    Kuwait Denies Rejecting New Price *[KUNA]* 8
    Iran Forecasts Price Hike *[IRNA]* 8
    Says Ministers Support $20 Price *[IRNA]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President Bendjedid Reshuffles Government *[Algiers TV]* 10
Madani Cited Calling for General Election *[AFP]* 10
    Confirms Meeting With Saudi King *[Algiers Radio]* 10

Egypt

Further on Mubarak's Mediation in Gulf Dispute 10
    Mubarak Meets Arab Leaders *[Cairo Radio]* 10
    Efforts End in Agreement *[MENA]* 11
    Mubarak Makes Statement *[MENA]* 11
    'Abd-al-Majid Comments *[MENA]* 12
Kuwaiti Envoy Sees Iraq Dispute Ending Soon *[MENA]* 12
Al-Baz on Iraq-Kuwait, Egypt-PLO Disputes *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 24 Jul]* 12
'Abd-al-Majid Receives Perez de Cuellar Message *[Cairo Radio]* 14

Morocco

- PRC Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 25 Jul *[Rabat Radio]* 14
- King Hassan Receives Algerian Party Leaders *[Rabat Radio]* 15
- King Hassan Returns Home From Algiers Summit *[MAP]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

- BDF Commander Notes Need for Modern Weapons *[WAKH]* 16

Kuwait

- Amir Phones Mubarak, King Fahd on Recent Events *[Kuwait Radio]* 16
- Prime Minister Seeks To Negotiate With Iraq *[KUNA]* 16
- Government Discusses Developments in Iraq Dispute *[KUNA]* 16
- Klibi Arrives To Discuss Iraq's 'Passing Crisis' *[KUNA]* 16
  - Meets With Prime Minister *[KUNA]* 17
  - Leaves For Tunis 26 Jul *[KUNA]* 17
- Egypt's Al-Baz Arrives for Talks on Iraq Crisis *[KUNA]* 17
  - Delivers Mubarak Message to Amir *[KUNA]* 17
- Editorial Urges Iraq To Reduce Escalation *[AL-WATAN 25 Jul]* 17
- Papers View 'Positive Developments' in Iraq Issue *[KUNA]* 18

Oman

- Iraqi Envoy Delivers Saddam Message to Sultan *[Muscat Radio]* 18

Republic of Yemen

- Iraqi President's Envoy Arrives in Sanaa 25 Jul *[INA]* 18
- President Salih Receives DFLP's Hawatimah *[Sanaa Radio]* 19

Saudi Arabia

- Planes, Reward Used To Track Down Armed Group *[Tehran Radio]* 19

United Arab Emirates

- Spokesman Explains 'Routine Maneuvers' With U.S. *[KUNA]* 19
  - Statement Denies Joint Maneuvers *[WAKH]* 19
- Shaykh Zayid Receives PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas *[WAKH]* 20
- Sudanese Official Gives News Conference 24 Jul *[AL-BAYAN 24 Jul]* 20

IRAQ

- Egypt's Al-Baz Delivers Message to Saddam *[MENA]* 21
- Further Details on Klibi, Tariq 'Aziz Meeting *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 21
  - Saddam Receives Klibi *[INA]* 21
  - Klibi Departs 25 Jul *[INA]* 21
- Saddam's Envoy Travels To Meet Maghreb Leaders 21
  - Confers With Tunisian President *[INA]* 21
  - Conveys Message to 'Arafat *[INA]* 21
  - Leaves Tunisia 25 Jul *[INA]* 21
  - Meets With Mauritanian President *[INA]* 22
  - Arrives in Rabat *[INA]* 22
- Sudanese Interior Minister Arrives With Message *[Voice of the Masses]* 22
  - Gives Letter to Saddam *[INA]* 22
  - Ministers Hold Talks *[INA]* 22
  - Leaves Baghdad 25 Jul *[INA]* 22

Saddam Envoy Leaves for Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia *[INA]* 22
    Leaves Khartoum for Djibouti *[INA]* 23
Saddam Receives Visiting Nicaraguan Official *[INA]* 23
Trade Minister Returns From Amman ACC Meeting *[INA]* 23
Kuwait Called 'Zionist-American Conspiracy' Tool *[INA]* 23
Paper: 'No Foreign Power Can Protect' Kuwait *[INA]* 24
Editorial: United Arab Position 'Only Option' *[INA]* 24

ISRAEL

Minister Invited for 'Official' Visit to USSR *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Arens on Iraqi Threats, Relations With U.S. *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Arens Calls for New IDF Multiyear Work Plan *[HADASHOT 25 Jul]* 29
Levi Criticizes EC Policies on Mideast, Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Rabin Says Iraq Moves in Jordan 'Casus Belli' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
IDF Rejects U.S. Human Rights Report Findings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
IDF, SLA Shell 'Terrorist Targets' in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Qatzav Suspends El Al Flights to Stockholm *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
First IAI Remote-Piloted Helicopter Takes Off *['AL HAMISHMAR 23 Jul]* 30
    Further Details on Flight *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Last Delay to VOA 'Arava Construction Removed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

JORDAN

Bani-Hasan Tribes Support King, Democracy *[JORDAN TIMES 26-27 Jul]* 31
Debate on Emigres Deferred Pending Report *[JORDAN TIMES 26-27 Jul]* 31
Paper Warns Against U.S. 'Adventure' in Gulf *[AL-RA'Y 25 Jul]* 32
Drilling for Oil To Begin in 'Ajlun Region *[PETRA-JNA]* 32
169 Dismissed Government Employees Reinstated *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Jul]* 32

LEBANON

Hostages in Lebanon Reported 'Still Alive' *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 33
Cabinet Decides To Send Army to Iqlim Al-Tuffah *[VOM]* 33
    Amal Supports Cabinet Decision *[Beirut Radio]* 33
    Hizballah Indicates Support *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Ibrahimi-'Awn Talks Fail To Achieve Results *[Beirut Radio]* 34
UN Reinforces South Following Israeli 'Threat' *[AFP]* 34
Hizballah Says Amal Obstructs Red Cross Efforts *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 34
Anti-Fatah Leaflets Distributed in Sidon Camps *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 34
Iqlim Al-Tuffah War Said Between Syria, Iran *[AL-NAHAR 25 Jul]* 34
Fighting Continues; Israel Reinforces Positions 35
    Israeli Vehicles Fortify South *[VOM]* 35
    Shelling Escalates *[VOM]* 36
    Israeli Planes Overfly Beirut *[RFL]* 36
    70 Casualties in Shtawrah Accident *[VOM]* 36
    Amal, Hizballah Exchange Fire *[VOM]* 36
    Resistance Positions Shelled *[VOM]* 36

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Receives Shevardnadze Message on Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Soviet Envoy Praises 'Remarkable' Relations *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Lebanese Minister Arrives, Meets With Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 37
    Meets With Vice President *[SANA]* 37
    Reviews Al-Asad Meeting, Departs *[Damascus Syrian Arab Television]* 37
U.S.-Israeli Alliance Based on Hostility to Arabs *[Damascus Radio]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Scholars, Clergy on Peace *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Prime Minister Meets Paktia, Khowst Elders 18 Jul *[BAKHTAR]* 40
Najibullah Receives Foreign Union Delegates *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Regime Forces' 'Mopping-Up Operations' Detailed *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Mujahidin Capture Regime Post, Arms in Laghman *[Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES 22 Jul]* 41

India

ICO Chairman Warned on Hearing Kashmir Issue *[AFP]* 41
Afghanistan Supports Indian Stand on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Muslim Secessionists Attack Kashmir Radio Station *[AFP]* 41
Mujahidin Want Arrested Diplomat Handed Over *[AFP]* 42
Suspects Arrested in Madras EPRLF Killings *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Bangladeshi Delegation Meets Military Chiefs *[Delhi TV]* 42
Minister Rules Out Privatization of Electronic Media *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Punjab Governor Offers Amnesty to 'Terrorists' *[Delhi Radio]* 43
13 Killed in Punjab 'Terrorist' Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Defense Sector To Export Equipment, Weapons *[Delhi Radio]* 43

Iran

Commentary Previews OPEC Session, Agenda *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Paper Comments on Syrian-Egyptian Relations *[ABRAR 15 Jul]* 44
Editorials, Commentary on Mina Tunnel Incident 44
- Paper Wants 'Justice' *[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Jul]* 44
- Mohtashemi Condemns Hajj Restrictions *[KEYHAN 8 Jul]* 45
- Paper on Investigation *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 8 Jul]* 46

Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Support for President *[AFP]* 47
ABRAR Assails Detracters of National Progress *[IRNA]* 47
Interior Minister Stresses Need for Unity *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Diplomats' Seminar Continues in Tehran 25 Jul 48
- Karrubi Addresses Seminar *[Tehran Radio]* 48
- Yazdi Praises Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran TV]* 48
- Tehran Radio Reports Yazdi Comments 49
- Paper Calls for 'Pious' Diplomats *[IRNA]* 49

*RESALAT Report on 20 June Majles Session *[21 Jun]* 49

Pakistan

Reportage on Kashmir, Indian Troop Buildup 54
- Cheema: Unrest Could Trigger War *[AFP]* 54
- Decries Indian Troop Concentration *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
- Azad Kashmir Premier Criticizes India *[Islamabad Radio]* 55

General Says Army Takeover Will Ruin Pakistan *[AFP]* 55
'Handful' of Afghan Refugees Depart Under Plan *[AFP]* 56

Sri Lanka

37 Rebels Reported Killed in Jaffna 25 Jul *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Government Denies LTTE Freed Abducted Policemen *[LANKAPUVATH]* 56
LTTE 'Act of Reprisal' in Polonnaruwa Reported *[LANKAPUVATH]* 57
Troops Liberate 'Vital' Town in 'Fierce Fighting' *[LANKAPUVATH]* 57
Security Forces Poised To Attack Guerrilla Base *[AFP]* 58
Army Takes Control of Trincomalee 26 Jul *[Delhi Radio]* 58
President Premadasa Receives PLO Special Envoy *[Colombo International]* 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saddam Sets 'Precondition' for Talks With Kuwait

JN2507140390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Arab sources in Cairo have revealed that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn requested during his talks yesterday with President Husni Mubarak that Kuwait send an official memorandum that includes the bases of a solution to the dispute between the two countries as a precondition to holding a summit or any meetings between officials of the two countries.

The sources said that the Iraqi president told the Egyptian president that if any points of dispute can be resolved, Iraq will immediately welcome holding these talks. In return, President Mubarak made a proposal to postpone the exchange of memorandums between the two countries until after the direct summit between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders.

The Egyptian president received initial promises from the two sides to stop the media campaigns between them. The Iraqi president told President Mubarak that Iraq does not intend to carry out any military action against Kuwait or any other Arab country. Sources said the two leaders agreed that internationalizing the crisis would affect not only the security of their countries but also Arab security throughout the region.

The Kuwaiti amir expressed to President Mubarak his approval over containing the crisis within its Arab framework. He indicated his readiness to participate in any proposed summit to settle the dispute with Iraq. Egyptian contacts with all concerned sides will continue in the next few days to agree over holding a direct summit after reaching a joint formula for convening it.

Kuwaiti, Iraqi Experts To Meet in Jeddah 28 Jul

LD2607102190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0947 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo 26 Jul (KUNA)—Senior Egyptian diplomatic sources revealed here today that the bilateral meeting which will be held between Kuwait and Iraq in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to prepare for settling the dispute between them, will be held next Saturday at the level of political, oil, and financial experts from the two fraternal countries.

The sources told KUNA here today that the duty of the experts is confined to two points; these are specifying the points of disagreements between their countries, Iraq and Kuwait, and getting informed about their respective views on each point and the means to settle the dispute. This meeting comes following successful efforts by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during a tour, which he started yesterday, of Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Iraq, Kuwait Reportedly Stop Media Campaign

JN2507124590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] The Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis has entered the course of dialogue and solution. A week after the eruption of this crisis and the transfer of the issues under dispute from the file of bilateral relations to the informtion arena, the media campaign stopped as of noon today.

It is obvious that the Egyptian president's mission has borne fruit the day after his tour, which sought to return the issues under dispute to the framework of Arab and bilateral discussions.

With the crisis reaching this positive point, what came in the Iraqi press today continued to express the explosive nature of the crisis. But this situation ended at noon today. The end of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis is a victory for the Arab solution and an avoidance of the dangers of foreign intervention.

The success is recorded for the Arabs, the mediators, and the parties to this sudden crisis.

Press Conference on Arab League-EEC Talks

LD2507162790 Rabat MAP in English 1330 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tunis, July 25 (MAP)—Gianni de Michelis, Italian foreign minister and head of the EEC 'troika', has qualified his talks with the Arab League 'troika' in Tunis as 'very useful' and 'very fruitful'. At a joint press conference he held, along with Palestinian Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi, at the end of his talks with the Arab League troika Tuesday in Tunis, De Michelis said the EEC troika's mission has been 'a success' and has 'reached all the objectives it had fixed itself'.

The two 'troikas' are composed of foreign ministers of former, current and upcoming acting chairmen of EEC and Arab league council. The EEC troika is composed of Irish, Italian and Luxemburg foreign ministers and the Arab League's of Qatari, Palestinian and Omani foreign ministers.

De Michelis said he had examined with the Arab League troika and with Palestinian president and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, possibilities of 'a European initiative to back efforts by concerned parties to establish a peace dialogue' in the Middle East.

The Italian minister laid special emphasis on the 'need and urgency' of 'doing something now' to 'get out of the deadlock' the Middle East question is in. He said the objective of the Tuesday meeting with the Arab troika and with President 'Arafat was to explain EEC's present action based on the Dublin summit's resolution and aimed at creating the proper conditions for peace initiatives in the Mideast.

He said talks with the Arab, Palestinian and Israeli parties had focused on the situation of the occupied territories' inhabitants and on the development of EEC economic relations with these parties. Other issues examined at length, he added, included protection of Palestinians' human rights and the consolidation of all parties' genuine efforts to establish in the region. [sentence as received]

Qaddumi for his part called on the EEC to contribute to putting an end to the degradation of the situation in the region, which, he stressed, is a natural consequence of the Israeli Government's practices and rejection of all peace initiatives.

The EEC troika, composed of De Michelis, Gerry Collins (Ireland) and Jacques Poos (Luxembourg), had arrived in Tunis on Tuesday as part of EEC efforts to contribute to peace in the Middle East. It conferred, shortly after arrival, with the Arab League troika composed of Qaddumi, Haitham Ben Taimour [name as received] (Oman) and Mubarak al-Khatir (Qatar).

Before Tunis, the European troika had visited Israel for talks with Foreign Minister David Levy and Premier Yitzhaq Shamir.

The talks covered the political situation in the Middle East, the opening of an EEC bureau in the occupied territories to supervise EEC aid to Palestinian populations there, and EEC-Israeli economic relations.

Palestinian Affairs

Sabri Al-Banna Group Reported 'Annihilated'

PM2507142890 Paris LE FIGARO in French 24 Jul 90 p 36

[Alberto Marientoni report: "Terrorism: Abu Nidal's Fall"]

[Text] Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council is no more. The most feared terrorist group of the Near East has now been completely annihilated. Its veteran leader, Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu-Nidal, and his last handful of loyal supporters are prisoners in Libya, in the Tukrah area. According to some sources, they have actually been killed. The movement's Central Council—an outright executive body—has completely disintegrated. The organization's military bases in Lebanon have now been completely dismantled or are simply controlled by 'Arafat supporters.

In the maze that is Lebanon, it is still difficult to understand the actual implications of certain conflicts. We are now in a position to explain the ins and outs of the inter-Palestinian battles in southern Lebanon in June. They were nothing less than a final reckoning in the terrible dispute that has raged between Abu Nidal and Yasir 'Arafat since 1972. Between 16 and 21 June the Palestinians engaged in an unprecedented fratricidal confrontation—or at any rate one of the most bloodthirsty.

Taking stock now, the following observation must be made: The troops loyal to Abu-Nidal were completely annihilated. Of the 350 Fatah-Revolutionary Council fighters who took part in the fighting, almost 150 were killed and 50 taken prisoner, a dozen of the latter having subsequently changed sides. As for the Fatah-Revolutionary Council survivors, they are completely demoralized.

Deprived of their officers—particularly 'Umar Hamid al-'Ali, Abu Nizar, Dr. Musa, Musa 'Alawinah, Ra'fat Nu'man, Dr. 'Ali Hashim, Qayid Abu-Anjab, and Taysir 'Abd-al-Rani—who were all killed in combat, those who escaped have tried desperately to rally the Hizballah in the Jabal 'Amil area or have rejoined the gangs of looters who have operated in southern Lebanon since 1987. This confrontation—which Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah intended to be decisive and final—underwent lengthy and painstaking planning.

It all began 2 November 1989 in Algiers. At that time, several members of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council decided to separate from the movement's leadership and to publicly condemn the activities of its veteran leader, Sabri al-Banna. This dissident group—called the Fatah-Emergency Command [Fatah-Commandement d'urgence]—was headed by 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa and 'Atif Abu-Bakr, two close aides of Abu-Nidal, who attempted a rapprochement with PLO headquarters in Tunis. The world's most wanted terrorist was abandoned by his supporters and accused of having had over 150 comrades executed.

Furthermore, these dissidents accused him of despotism within the organization, of making "deals" with non-Palestinian terrorist movements, and of adopting extremely violent stances against the PLO, and especially against its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat. For Abu-Nidal and his last handful of loyal supporters, in hiding in Libya or entrenched in two camps in southern Lebanon, the revolt by some of their former supporters was nothing short of a declaration of war by 'Arafat.

Observers wondered whether the PLO had decided to eliminate the Fatah-Revolutionary Council once and for all. For over a year the PLO has been in dire straits. The policy of extreme readiness to negotiate recently pursued by 'Arafat's Palestinian headquarters has not achieved anything. The Israelis simply ignored it. The Americans have recently isolated it again, following the abortive attempt by a Palestinian commando to infiltrate Israel organized by Abu-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] on 30 May.

Furthermore, the PLO's principal organization, Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah, is itself experiencing a crisis. The controversy within its ranks is full blown. In the occupied territories, support for 'Arafat has dwindled. The Palestinian Islamist movements are mostly attacking their former strongholds. Fatah's influence continues to be felt only in some refugee camps in southern Lebanon. Previously the only discordant note in these camps was orchestrated by the presence of Abu-Nidal's men—350 fighters not attached to the PLO, entrenched within two Palestinian camps: al-Rashidiyah (150 men), which houses some 15,000 refugees, and 'Ayn al-Hulwah (200 men), which houses some 10,000 Palestinians.

The unexpected split that had just taken place with the Fatah-Revolutionary Council in Algiers opened up new prospects for Yasir 'Arafat. It was the last chance to neutralize Abu-Nidal's propaganda and to once again ensure political control over the Palestinian diaspora taking place in the camps since the Six Day War in 1967. In the Fatah leadership's eyes, these refugees were likely to be affected by the Islamist "contagion" or by the results of the "unnatural" alliance between the Fatah-Revolutionary Council and the Lebanese Hizballah. This alliance last year had been encouraged by the "diehards" of the anti-Israeli struggle. And this had been done with Tehran's "blessing."

This time, the hour of revenge had come for 'Arafat—revenge against both Abu-Nidal, his sworn enemy, and against the rise of Islamism in the ranks (had not Robert Oakley, chief of the antiterrorist section in the U.S. State Department, [title as published] expressed the hope that this possibility would arise during meetings with the PLO in Tunis?). An ad hoc strategy was therefore drawn up. Supported by 'Arafat and financed by the Fatah leadership, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa and Atif Abu-Bakr formed their little army, namely around 100 "dissidents" recruited from among the Palestinians who had fled the Fatah-Revolutionary Council and from the friends or close relatives of these two leaders.

A Deal For the Algerians

Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah would handle the rest: weapons, the military training of these men and their transfer by boat to southern Lebanon. The reaction of Abu-Nidal's supporters was not long in coming. On 25 April, a three-man commando attempted to murder 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa, leader of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council "rebels" in Algiers. The murder attempt failed. The terrorists fled. However, the Algerian authorities arrested Hisham Muhammad Saqr [name as published], number-two man in the Fatah-Revolutionary Council office in Algiers. He was accused of complicity in that attempted murder. Abu-Nidal was furious. He no longer had any illusions and was incapable of exerting pressure on Algeria.

On 7 May, as a last resort, he offered the Algerians a deal: to release Saqr in exchange for the immediate closure of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council offices and the cessation of all his group's activities in Algeria. That proposal remained a dead letter. That was the beginning of the end. The Fatah-Revolutionary Council was on the run everywhere, even in Libya. Approached by Algiers, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi changed course. After making him take the blame for in the "Silco" affair, the Libyan leaders imprisoned Sabri al-Banna and most of his followers, while offering protection and money to the dissidents from the former Abu-Nidal group. The few leadership members who had time to escape this roundup fled abroad. They went first to Greece or Cyprus. Then they headed for Lebanon. There they tried to organize a counterattack on 'Arafat's supporters.

It was to be a last stand by the remaining few before falling "on the field of honor," they said. On 15 June, in the Palestinian camp of Al-Rashidiyah in southern Lebanon, they attacked the PLO officials. They killed three of them, including Ahmad Salim Waras [name as published], a Fatah official and one of Yasir 'Arafat's close aides. Then they tried to organize themselves, to fortify their positions. Finally, they grouped their troops in secure positions. Their action proved futile in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and in the Al-Rashidiyah camp. In short, it was too late!

Around 50 dissidents from the Fatah-Emergency Command set up by 'Isa and Abu-Bakr and around 100 'Arafat suporters were already there. They had come mainly from Algeria and Tunisia and had landed a few days earlier near Sidon. And, via Tabalyah and Tyr, they had reached the planned operational zone. They joined forces with around 500 Fatah fighters sent to the area from Al-Barid camp in southern Lebanon. With the help of the pro-Syrian Shiite Amal movement, the troops in question virtually surrounded the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Rashidiyah camps.

We know what happened then. The movement formed in 1972 by Sabri al-Banna virtually no longer exists.

'Arafat Meets EEC Foreign Ministers in Tunis

JN2507180190 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met at the PLO leadership's headquarters in Tunis with the delegation of the EEC foreign ministers, which is comprised of Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, and Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins, in addition to an EC member. The Arab side was headed by the state of Palestine and included delegations from Qatar, Oman, the Arab League, and a number of ambassadors of those countries participating in the meeting.

The talks dealt with a number of important issues, primarily activating the peace process in the Middle East through an international peace conference with the attendance of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, under the auspices of the United Nations, and with the participation of all parties to the conflict including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinian people].

They also discussed the oppressive Israeli measures in the occupied Palestinian territories and the annihilation operations the Palestinian people are being subjected to by the Israeli occupation forces. They discussed relations between the state of Palestine and the EEC countries and means of promoting them.

Brother Abu-'Ammar, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Arab side to the talks, appreciated the EEC position on the Palestine question and the support the EEC gives to the sons of our people inside their occupied homeland.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by brothers Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department; Hakam Bal'awi and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray Mazuq], members of the Fatah Central Council; Dr. Sami Musallam, head of the brother president's office; and Hayil al-Fahum, head of the Western Europe Desk at the Political Department; and Nimr Hammad and Shawqi Armali, PLO representatives in Rome and Brussels.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, head of the European tripartite committee, the troika, said that the European troika's talks with the Arab League's tripartite committee were constructive and very distinctive. He explained in a joint news conference in Tunis yesterday with PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi—chairman of the Arab side—that the European troika's visit to Tunis is aimed at pushing the peace process in the Middle East forward and discussing means of resuming dialogue by holding talks with the Arab Tripartite Committee and the Palestinian president Brother Yasir 'Arafat on the possibility of European mediation to support the efforts of the concerned sides to start a dialogue and push the peace process forward in the Middle East.

For his part, brother Faruq Qaddumi reaffirmed the Arab tripartite committee's interest in the Dublin statement on the European troika's efforts and initiative to resume dialogue. He added that the interests of the Arab troika are concentrated on attempts to put an end to the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories as a result of confronting the continuing Israeli aggressions.

Within this framework, Faruq Qaddumi said that the United Nations cannot continue the peace process alone; it needs international support, as in the cases of Cambodia and Namibia.

The European tripartite committee, or troika, includes the foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg.

'Arafat Urges CSFR's Havel To Support Peace

JN2407175590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Brother president Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has urged Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel to support the right of the Palestinian people, to contribute to efforts to protect the Palestinian citizens from Israeli repression, and to help speed up the peace process in the Middle East.

A Palestinian source in Tunis said today that this was stated in a message sent by brother President Yasir 'Arafat to President Havel. The message was conveyed by brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the Palestinian president, who is currently visiting Prague. Abu-Sharif handed the message to the Czechoslovak president's political adviser, who is also in charge of international relations, during their meeting in Prague today.

During this meeting, they discussed the serious situation in the occupied territories, the Israeli Government's continuous repressive and terrorist policy against the Palestinian people, and Israel's rejection of all peace efforts and proposals.

PLO To Respond to Swedish Message on Dialogue

JN2407075790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jul 90 p 22

[Text] Tunis—It has been learned that during the next few days the Palestinian leadership will respond to the message sent by Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, two weeks ago.

A Palestinian source said that the message included several suggestions to find an appropriate formula for restoring the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue so that it would be possible to come out with a face-saving response to the U.S. demand concerning Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] and that does not expose the PLO to sharp criticism by Palestinian diehards.

Some sources do not rule out the possibility of reaching such a settlement during the next few weeks, especially because some influential circles in the U.S. Administration say that no progess has been made with Israel following the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO and that it is beneficial to restore the dialogue because suspending it completely implies a total deadlock in the peace process in the region.

PLO Issues Communique on South Lebanon Fighting

JN2507182190 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Military communique issued by the PLO]

[Text] Yesterday, 24 July, since the morning, the Zionist enemy resumed its artillery shelling with long-range field artillery of areas where our troops are implementing their mission to end the fighting in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region and targetting all positions where our forces are present.

The enemy continued its artillery shelling up to the moment this communique was prepared yesterday afternoon; at the same time violent clashes are taking place between the Amal and Hizballah movements in the town of Jarju' and around it.

This is a revolution until victory.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Opens 87th Conference in Geneva 26 Jul

LD2607093690 Vienna OPECNA in English 1003 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva 26 July (OPECNA)—OPEC's oil and energy ministers began their 87th conference meeting here this morning attended by the organization's 13 heads of delegation.

The conference was preceded by a meeting wednesday of the organization's eight-member ministerial marketing monitoring committee which discussed oil market developments including supply and demand and stock build-up.

The committee also discussed a report by the OPEC economic commission board comprising the countries' national representatives, looked at the call on OPEC oil in the second half of this year, and studied measures to absorb the current oil glut on world markets.

The meeting involving committee members Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela was also attended by the organization's other member states—Ecuador, Gabon, Libya, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

Unified Arab Economic Report on Oil Reserves

LD2507135190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1149 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 25 (KUNA)—Two thirds of the world's oil reserve is possessed solely by Arab petroleum producing countries, according to the unified Arab economic report for 1989, to be published soon.

The report, an advance copy of which was acquired by KUNA, said Arab oil reserve increased by 91 billion barrels in one year compared to 12 billion barrels in the rest of the world countries. It put the world's actual oil reserve at 991 billion barrels in 1988, up 103 billion barrels than it was in 1987.

According to the report, oil reserve in Arab countries alone had reached 600 billion barrels by the end of 1988 with an increase of 91 billion barrels compared to the previous year. Saudi Arabia had the lion's share in the increase, thanks to its intensified efforts to explore new fields and develop the existing ones.

Libya and North Yemen (formerly) added one billion barrels each to their actual reserve while South Yemen's reserve was estimated at 3.4 billion barrels. The two Yemens merged in one state last May.

Oil reserve in the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had increased by 13 percent to 88.5 billion barrels in 1988. The share of non-Arab members in this increase is only 2 billion barrels. Combined OPEC's share in world oil reserve stood at 76.6 percent or one percent higher than the previous year.

The report said oil reserve in Latin American countries increased by 6.7 billion barrels, 5 billion barrels in socialist countries while the United Kingdom's reserve in the North Sea was down 4.4 billion barrels than it was in 1987.

Oil reserve in non-OPEC members had increased to 7 billion barrels during 1988, mainly in India, Angola and Columbia, according to the report.

Oil Prices Expected To Rise to $25 by Year's End

JN2607070290 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva—The figure $20 emerged yesterday as the new lowest standard price for a barrel of OPEC oil at a time when this figure is expected to rise to $25 in the fourth quarter of 1990. OPEC sources say the situation in Geneva is clear despite the fact that contacts are still at an early stage, particularly those related to fixing the price. There is general agreement that the price cannot, in any way, be less than $20 during the third quarter of 1990.

Regarding the fourth quarter of the year, OPEC sources expect the price of a barrel of crude oil to rise to $22 or $22.5, a figure close to that called for by Iraq. These sources ruled out the possibility of making any change to the current output ceiling in the December meeting because there is a large surplus of crude oil reserves, as stated by the OPEC secretary general and Indonesian oil minister, Subroto [name and titles as heard].

Although the [OPEC] conference has not yet started its proceedings, positive developments are constantly taking place in the international oil market and prices are continuing to rise. Brent crude oil has risen to $19.60 a barrel for August 1990 contracts. The standard price rose yesterday to around $17.5 a barrel.

OPEC President Urges Oil Price Stability

LD1807142890 Algiers APS in English 1120 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, 18 July (APS)—[Algerian] Mines Minister Sadek Boussena, acting OPEC president, has urged OPEC member states to co-operate to ensure oil price stability. The minister told OPECNA on the sidelines of the seventh ordinary ministerial meeting of the African Petroleum Producers' Association (APPA) that it is in the interest of everybody to join efforts in order to stabilize oil prices and enhance our revenues in real terms" [quotation mark as received]. He observed that OPEC would not relent in its efforts to promote cooperation among oil producers, adding that APPA was a forum for furthering [words indistinct]

"We [words indistinct] if we are to restore oil price stability," he said.

OPEC Oil Ministers Discuss Quotas, Prices

Libya Calls for Quota Increase

PM2307154690 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
16 Jul 90 p 15

[Interview with Libyan Petroleum Minister Fawzi Ahmad al-Shakshuki by Hamid 'Umar al-'Attas in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-'Attas] How do you view your quota in the market?

[Al-Shakshuki] Libya has always demanded that its oil quota be increased and that it should have a fixed quota within 6.8 percent of the production ceiling. But for the sake of reaching a just price and permanent stability in that commodity's market, Libya, in a spirit of sacrifice and cooperation, has abandoned that demand at this stage. The OPEC member states have observed this and emphasized that they will work to increase Libya's quota at the next meetings when the production ceiling is increased, especially because some states will not be able to increase their output, because they have already reached their production limit. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Attas] What is your opinion of the new developments concerning Kuwait's and the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] response following the Jeddah meeting between the five oil ministers of the Arab OPEC member states?

[Al-Shakshuki] We have no doubt that the Jeddah five-way meeting has produced positive results, especially following the personal contacts made by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud with his Brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, as a result of which the UAE agreed to adhere to the OPEC ceiling and to accept a production quota of 1.5 million barrels. Like the other states which attended the meeting, Kuwait made a pledge, and this gives a strong boost to real market stability.

[Al-'Attas] What is your opinion of some states' request to join the Organization?

[Al-Shakshuki] It is not a matter of increasing or decreasing the number of OPEC member states. It is a matter of cooperation among all the producing states—inside and outside the OPEC—in order to stabilize the oil market and secure a high price for this strategic commodity. This commodity is available to the international economy to ensure its growth and prosperity, as it relies on this strategic commodity to produce energy. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Attas] What additional steps do you propose in order to increase the effectiveness of the present quota system?

[Al-Shakshuki] If the OPEC states really want to secure a fair income from this commodity and to stabilize the market, then it is these states' duty to accept whatever ceiling and quotas they agree on so that allocations will be fair to all states. Undoubtedly a commitment by member states' stabilizes prices and increases them gradually. Then the Organization can hold meetings to raise the production ceiling and every state's quota on that basis. [passage omitted]

Iraq's Al-Jalabi Comments

LD2507121590 Vienna OPECNA in English
1153 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 25 July 90 (OPECNA)—OPEC's eight-member Ministerial Market Monitoring Committee will open talks at 16:00 hours (14:00 GMT) here today to discuss developments in the international oil market and measures that would ensure correcting the course of oil prices.

The commitee comprises the oil and energy ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. All committee members have already arrived in Geneva.

OPEC conference alternate president Sadek Boussena, [title as received] who is Algeria's mines minister, told reporters today that he was hopeful for a good meeting because "whatever deliberations are arrived at would be in the best interests of member countries".

Iraqi Oil Minister Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi stated on his departure from Baghdad for the Geneva talks that he was hopeful the mid-year ministerial conference, due to start Thursday, would consider changing the organization's pricing and production formula.

He added that following the recent deterioration in oil prices OPEC member countries felt the need to take immediate measures through fixing a precise production ceiling and individual quotas.

Referring to recent contacts and consultations by OPEC member countries, Al-Jalabi said there was a consensus supporting Iraq's position for fixing a ceiling and quotas until prices improved to a new minimum level set by the organization.

Gabon To Seek Higher Prices

LD2507122590 Vienna OPECNA in English
1158 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 25 July 90 (OPECNA)—Gabonese Minister of Hydrocarbons Jean Ping [title as received] said Tuesday that his country would maintain a "traditional position" in seeking better crude oil prices commensurate with its domestic needs.

In an exclusive interview with OPECNA on his arrival here to take part in the OPEC mid-year ministerial conference opening Thursday, the minister said that he would join other OPEC member states such as Algeria, Iran and Libya in the "chorus" for higher oil prices so that their collective position in this regard would be "better amplified".

While recognizing the spirit of compromise in determining OPEC's reference price, Ping suggested a new figure "above the 18 dollar mark" in line with the new realities. He did not elaborate.

In what will be his first sitting in an OPEC conference, the minister pledged to maintain the policies articulated by his predecessor towards issues of importance affecting the organization, particularly on the price hike initiative.

He expressed satisfaction over the recent price improvement but cautioned against complacency as much needed to be done to further bolster prices. "We should still always hope for a better market situation." Ping revealed that his message to the conference was one of "hope and success...There is the hope that we can succeed in solving those problems traditional to the organization and new ones at hand."

He appealed for peace and understanding in the politically restive situation in the Gulf and implored the conference to sort out "amicably and in a business-like manner" the economic interests of all member countries. The minister endorsed the recent Gulf shuttle consultations by OPEC's oil and energy ministers and dismissed any suggestions that credit the initiative to OPEC Gulf Arab member states alone.

He stressed: "The whole thing took the form of mini-meetings by different groups with the same purpose. Some of us met under the banner of the African petroluem producers' association (APPA) in Tripoli, Libya, in full consultation with other groups elsewhere. So, there was proper consultation between all OPEC members."

Turning to the Gabonese domestic oil industry, he said that a "rigorous" exploration bid to expand Gabon's reserve base remained the country's most pressing priority. In this regard, he added that a "carefully coordinated and comprehensive" form of inter-relations now existed between his ministry and the other foreign interests' designed to stimulate optimization of the country's policy objectives in the petroleum sector.

Ministers State Positions

*LD2507125190 Vienna OPECNA in English
1210 GMT 25 Jul 90*

[Text] Geneva's 25 July 90 (OPECNA)—OPEC oil and energy ministers, while voicing optimism over the future of oil prices, are forging ahead towards a consensus on a reference price of over 18 dollars a barrel for the organization.

The ministers, who have been arriving here to participate in the 87th meeting of the OPEC conference, have also been expressing concern on the need to mop up the excess crude overhang on international oil markets.

On his arrival Tuesday, Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham M. Nazir endorsed the suggested restriction on output levels and price increases as adopted by the five OPEC Gulf Arab ministers in a consultative meeting held recently in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He described the Jeddah meeting, with the designed intent of "increasing the credibility of OPEC," as "good".

Nazir said he was hopeful of an agreement at the OPEC mid-year ministerial meeting which opens here Thursday, in line with what he termed as "the spirit of Jeddah". He declared that Saudi Arabia was in favour of a "higher oil price," but only after thorough market evaluation and analysis, which would lead to the adoption of a concrete decision.

On his part, Iraqi Minister of Oil Isam 'Abd-ar-Rahim al-Jalabi reiterated an earlier call for a 25 dollar per barrel minimum reference price. He said: "We are aiming for 25 dollars. We are aiming for an agreement that would make sure that the prices would firm up to the level that we have announced as the minimum."

Al-Jalabi suggested that OPEC's production ceiling be fixed at current levels "without any change" until the 25 dollar mark had been attained and endorsed a suggested quota figure of 1.5 million barrels a day for the United Arab Emirates, again in line with the Jeddah deliberations.

Diego Tamariz Ecuador's energy and mines minister, pledged to "toe the line" on any consensus capable of having a reassuring impact on the market. "I support any type of measure that is directed towards securing a sustainable recovery in prices," he said.

The minister declined to be tied to a specific reference figure on the grounds that such a decision could only be reached after careful scrutiny of available market data vis-a-vis the supply of and demand equation. However he said that it was in the interests of all member states "to try to compensate for a revenue shortfall caused by the sharp drop in prices in the past months."

In a very modest but encouraging contribution, Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Dr. Celestino Armas expressed hope that a business-like approach to the meeting would make it a relatively short and fruitful one.

In similarly short comments, Nigerian Petroleum Resources Minister Prof. Jibril Aminu gave a thumbs-up for any effort towards reaching what he termed "the best price for oil", while his Libyan counterpart, Fawzi al-Shakshuki, was more favourably disposed to a hike in the reference price to 25 dollars per barrel "and a good production share for Libya."

OPEC Secretary General Dr. Subroto, talking exclusively to OPECNA, also endorsed the business-like approach to conference deliberations. He said: "If we can proceed in a business-like way and concentrate on the economic aspects of the oil problem, then we can achieve a lot within a short period of time."

He said that considering the pressing challenges of development facing each OPEC member country, conventional wisdom dictated that the improvement of their revenue base for the benefit of social and economic progress was the most logical course of action. He said:

"in specific terms, we should concentrate on how to attain a price level for the OPEC basket of crudes to over 18 dollars a barrel.

"Right now, prices have shown considerable improvement. North Sea Brent Crude, for example, rose to over 19 dollars a barrel today and the basket of OPEC crudes must be in the 17.50 dollar region. This is a good trend," he added.

Kuwait on Price Issues

LD2507130390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1122 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 25 (KUNA)—Kuwait's oil minister, Dr. Rashid Salim al-'Amiri, Wednesday continued his consultative meetings with other OPEC oil ministers here, before the start of the meeting of the market monitoring committee, scheduled for later this afternoon and the full OPEC conference opening tomorrow.

Dr. 'Amiri told KUNA his meetings with other ministers were of a general nature, to discuss various developments in the oil market and also to assess the future prospects.

The Kuwaiti oil minister has met with his counterparts from Nigeria, Venezuela, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Algeria, among others. Accosted by a crowd of journalists while passing through the hotel lobby, Dr. 'Amiri said, in an answer to whether he thought an oil price of 25 dollars a barrel was valid, "We will have to see. We have not met officially. We have to get everyone's view." Later on, questioned on the same issue, he said, "If there is an increase, it should be a reasonable increase."

Asked whether Kuwait was still in favour of sticking to the overall ceiling of 22.5 million barrel a day, Dr. 'Amiri replied, "We will stick to our quota for the time-being. We have to see if there is any possibility for increase in the future. But this is still open for discussion. We do not insist on anything a priori. We would see what is the opinion of everybody. We are always flexible to take into consideration other members' situations and requests.

Dr. 'Amiri pointed out that it was up to the general meeting to decide on when the production ceiling could be raised - whether now or in the fourth quarter.

To a question on whether he was moving away from the Jeddah accord, Amiri said, "No, I am not backing away from what was agreed at Jeddah. We are trying to maintain the ceiling but leaving the door open for the future." He described the Jeddah meeting as "very successful." As to whether he foresaw another ministerial meeting in September, he said September was "too close," implying that the decisions taken now in Geneva would probably cover the rest of this year.

Dr. Subroto, the secretary general of OPEC, when asked about his opinion on a possible price target of 25 dollars, said it had been suggested but the matter had to be discussed in full deliberations.

Kuwait Denies Rejecting New Price

LD2507194990 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1904 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 25 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri has denied press reports to the effect that Kuwait objects to rising the price of oil to $25 a barrel.

Dr. al-'Amiri told KUNA, reacting to REUTER and BBC reports concerning Kuwait's opposition to raising the price of oil to $25 dollars, which was misunderstood to mean rejection of the Iraqi proposal, "Kuwait is ready to consider seriously all the proposals presented from OPEC member countries." Dr. al-'Amiri, who is taking part in OPEC meetings, went on to say "the price issue is agreed upon by the conference following consultations and discussions among all members of the organization in furtherance of their common interest."

Iran Forecasts Price Hike

LD2507151490 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 25, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh on Wednesday predicted that the ongoing 87th ministerial meeting of OPEC would serve to push up the price of oil up to 20 dollars per barrel or even more.

"All members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are serious about this," Aqazadeh told reporters.

He said he thought it would not be easy to change the production ceiling and quotas decreed by the organization.

Asked whether a 25-dollar price as proposed by some OPEC member states was logical, Aqazadeh replied "You should ask this question from themselves but what I can say is that a very good and pleasant atmosphere is prevailing in the conference."

"The 13-member organization is to issue a very strong statement at the end of its 87th conference," the oil minister said.

On the recent Kuwait-Iraq dispute and whether it might affect the current conference, he said OPEC was an economic and not a political organization.

Says Ministers Support $20 Price

LD2607082490 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 26, IRNA—Oil ministers of the 13-member organisation of petroleum exporting countries gathered here are unanimous on pushing up benchmark price of oil to dlrs. 20 per barrel, said Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh here Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the Wednesday meeting of the market monitoring committee of OPEC, he suggested that the proposed production ceiling of 22.5 billion barrels per day should remain valid for the rest of the current year.

The oil ministers also discussed supply and demand in the oil market for the next six months.

Meanwhile, Saudi oil minister Sheikh Hisham Nazir told reporters that his country supported increase in oil benchmark price, but declined to elaborate further.

In another development, Libyan oil minister Fawzi al-Shakshuki [title as received] said that his country was favouring dlrs. 25 per barrel as the benchmark price and that it will not accept the proposed dlrs. 20 per barrel.

He stressed that if the production ceiling is increased, Tripoli will ask for a rise in its quota and added that quotas of all members must be changed.

At present Libya's quota stands at 1,233 million barrels a day.

Oil ministers are to continue their private and multilateral talks in the coming days.

Algeria

President Bendjedid Reshuffles Government

LD2507193890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The president of the republic, Chadli Bendjedid, today received Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, who put forward to him an amendment to the government, after which the president of the republic made the following appointments:

National defense minister: Major General Khaled Nazzar
Education minister: Ali Ben Mohamed
Minister for universities: Moustapha Cherif
Minister for mines and industry: Sadek Boussena
Minister of transportation: Hasan Kahlouche
Minister of equipment: Mohamed Gneifed
Minister of post and telecommunications: Mohamed Serradj
Minister of health: Hameed Sidi Said
Minister delegate for research and technology: Cherif el Haddj Sleiman.

President of the republic, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, appointed Brigadier Abdelmalek Guneizia as commander of the staff of the National People's Army; Brigadier Moustapha Chelloufi, the former secretary general of the National Defense Ministry is recalled to other tasks.

Madani Cited Calling for General Election

NC2307124790 Paris AFP in English 1031 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, July 23 (AFP)—The president of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which swept the board in Algeria's municipal elections on June 12, has stepped up pressure on President Chadli Bendjedid to dissolve parliament and call a general election.

Abassi Madani, who is also FIS spokesman, said Sunday [22 July] that if Mr. Chadli was unable to dissolve parliament for constitutional reasons, a referendum should be organised to decide the issue.

The FIS leader urged parliamentary deputies, who all belong to the National Liberation Front, formerly the only legal party, to adopt a "milestone" position and resign.

The leader of the fundamentalist Islamic party gave no deadline for dissoultion of parliament, saying the issue would be decided by the FIS Consultative Council and in "contacts to be made soon" with the government.

Concerning a possible alliance with the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), led by former Algerian president Ahmed Ben Bella, Mr. Madani said the question had never been raised before the FIS Consultative Council.

But he did not rule out contacts with the former president, who is planning to return to Algeria from exile and whose positions are close to those of the FIS.

Mr. Madani also strongly criticized "some parties demanding democracy" who after the FIS election victory were suddenly "transformed into opponents" of the FIS rather than the government.

"These people have become a danger threatening the Algerian people," said Mr. Madani in an apparent reference to the communist Socialist Vanguard Party.

The FIS leader also attacked the press for its coverage of "futile problems" such as the banning of shorts and Rai (Arab-rock) music in municipalities now controlled by the FIS.

"There are much more important problems in Algeria," he said, citing the "crucial" lack of water, unemployment and housing.

But Mr. Madani did not reject the banning of shorts in tourist towns, saying laws regulating clothing go back to the time of the colonial French administration before the 1962 revolution.

"It is a question of defending our Islamic values which do not allow people to parade through town half-naked," he said.

Mr. Madani said he was "preoccupied" by the recent theft of explosives (about one ton in total) in three Algerian towns.

After the thefts and considering the current political scene, Mr. Madani said he did not rule out that bombs will be exploded and attributed to the FIS.

He said the FIS "will be strangers to all events of this kind."

Confirms Meeting With Saudi King

LD2307140690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Abassi Madani confirmed that he met with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia. The meeting, he hastened to point out, took place in the company of a group of religious scholars. Nothing happened apart from an exchange of greetings, Abassi Madani went on to say.

Egypt

Further on Mubarak's Mediation in Gulf Dispute

Mubarak Meets Arab Leaders

NC2507144990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak continued his consulations with Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He also continued his contacts with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, with the aim of clearing the atmosphere between fraternal Iraq and Kuwait and fostering a climate conducive to settling the disagreements between them amicably according to the close fraternal ties between the two peoples and the spirit of solidarity and cooperation within the one Arab family.

The custodian of the two holy mosques telephoned the president this morning to continue the talk they had in Jeddah last night, Tuesday. This was followed by telephone conversations between the president and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

Efforts End in Agreement

NC2507174790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1712 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—The joint, coordinated efforts of President Husni Mubarak and King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia have resulted in a brotherly and favorable response by the Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders.

Within this framework, President Mubarak continued his consultations with King Fahd, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in order to clear the atmosphere between fraternal Iraq and Kuwait and prepare for a friendly settlement of their dispute, consistent with the close brotherly ties between the two peoples and the spirit of cooperation and solidarity within the one Arab family.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd contacted President Husni Mubarak this morning to continue the talks they had in Jeddah last night. This was followed by communication between President Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

These joint efforts have resulted in agreement to end the campaigns and statements made by the officials and media in Kuwait and Iraq beginning tomorrow, Thursday.

It was also agreed to hold meetings between the officials of the two countries to discuss all the issues connected with the dispute and reach an understanding about them through objective and dedicated dialogue.

The first such meeting is expected to be held in Saudi Arabia in the next few days.

It is clear that these constructive steps would not have been made if both countries' leaders had not been sincere in wanting to contain the situation and settle the differences in a framework consistent with the unity of aims and destiny that enables our Arab nation to devote itself to confronting the challenges that face its progress.

A responsible source has stated the following:

In view of the critical situation in the Gulf, a region of vital importance to us all, and in order to provide an appropriate climate to ease the tension and eliminate the causes of conflict and disagreement, the Arab Republic of Egypt appeals to all international forces to avoid any act that is bound to complicate the situation, increase the tension, and introduce new factors into the issue that would assign negative implications to it and place hindrances in the way of settling the differences and reaching an agreement among the parties directly concerned with the conflict. The forces that are concerned with the stability of the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East must give the region's countries a chance to control the situation, contain the dispute, and prevent it from spreading.

Mubarak Makes Statement

NC2507182390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 July (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak made a statement this evening on the outcome of his contacts with his Arab brother leaders today. The contacts are aimed at containing the crisis that recently surfaced between Iraq and both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], in the interest of Arab solidarity.

President Mubarak began his statement by saying: As you know, all the Arab states seek Arab solidarity. There might exist some differences in view over some bilateral issue that require the intercession and mediation of some Arab brothers to bring the views closer. I believe that what happened between Iraq and Kuwait is something that could be resolved, and in fact my trip yesterday was within this context.

President Mubarak added: I left for Iraq and had a long discussion on this issue with President Saddam Husayn. I believe he is interested in resolving this issue and has no intention of attacking Kuwait or any other party.

I later met with his highness the amir of kuwait, and then I left for Jeddah. In fact we have managed, thanks to the good will and the great efforts exerted for this situation, and in which we were helped by Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to reach an agreement to halt the media campaigns as of tomorrow, Thursday, God willing. Then a bilateral meeting involving a Kuwaiti and an Iraqi delegation will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, say in Jeddah, so that they might start a dialogue that could enable them to reach a final solution to the current problem between them.

President Mubarak hoped that with good will a solution could be found, noting that this requires flexibility on the part of all parties, so that no foreign powers might get involved, thus creating problems that we would not be able to solve.

Asked what Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has agreed to and if the problem will require arbitration, President Husni Mubarak said that the problem does not require arbitration. President Saddam has agreed to end the information campaigns as of Thursday.

Iraq and Kuwait will hold a bilateral meeting in Jeddah. They will sit down to talk about the problem. It will by necessity take more than one session. The meeting, which will be attended by only the two countries, will be held on 28 or 29 July.

Asked whether President Saddam Husayn has announced the date for the withdrawal of his forces from the border, President Mubarak said: President Saddam has not placed any forces on the border. The forces that are there were in the area before. President Mubarak said: I can tell you that President Saddam has no intention of moving forces toward Kuwait.

Asked if President Saddam Husayn told him this, President Mubarak said: Yes.

Regarding the U.S. movements and the joint maneuvers with the United Arab Emirates, the president said: The joint maneuvers that I heard about are far from the border. But I call on the United States not to escalate the matter in order not to complicate the problem between two neighboring fraternal Arab states.

Asked whether his visits to Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia were prepared for in advance, his excellency said: Preparations were made one or two days before. I decided to leave following contacts I held with them. I contacted them and told them that I am coming to see you tomorrow.

Asked if these differences will affect the convening of the next Arab summit conference, President Mubarak emphatically dismissed this and said: No, no, no. He added that such differences exist in every society. But as long as there is good will, the differences can be resolved.

I do not think the disagreement between Iraq and Kuwait is difficult to resolve, he said. It does not require arbitration. They will sit down together, and I am sure that with some flexibility on both sides a compromise solution can be reached.

President Mubarak made these statements before he attended the ceremony held by the police academy this evening to mark the graduation of a new group of policemen.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments

NC2607104890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1011 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today stated that the meeting between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations will be held in Jeddah on Sunday and Monday [as received]. He added that Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah will chair his country's delegation. The chairman of the Iraqi delegation has not yet been determined, but it may be the Vice President, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid was speaking to reporters at a celebration marking the graduation of a new batch of officers from the military academy. Asked about an Egyptian or Saudi delegation's possible participation in that meeting, he said that this matter has not yet been discussed.

Responding to another question on Iran's participation at the Islamic foreign ministers conference which will be held in Cairo at the end of this month, he said an Iranian experts delegation representing senior Iranian officials arrived in Cairo yesterday. However, he said, we have not yet been informed about the name of the Iranian delegation's chairman.

Kuwaiti Envoy Sees Iraq Dispute Ending Soon

NC2507164890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—'Abd-al-Razzak al-Kindi, Kuwaiti ambassador to Cairo, said his country welcomes Egypt's mediation and appreciates President Husni Mubarak's efforts to preserve Arab unity of ranks.

Following a meeting today with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the Kuwaiti ambassador announced that they discussed developments in the Kuwaiti-Iraqi dispute. He hoped the disagreement will be a mere summer cloud and that the progress of Arab solidarity and cooperation will continue.

The Kuwaiti ambassador added he expressed his country's thanks to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid for Egypt's permanent pursuit of unity of Arab ranks and its constant efforts to resolve any disagreement of views. He said he believes that as a result of Arab good offices and the wisdom of the officials in Kuwait and Iraq, the crisis will be contained and resolved.

Asked if the Kuwaiti and Iraqi foreign ministers will hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Islamic foreign ministers conference, he said the conference will begin next Tuesday, and he believes the disagreement will be resolved by that time.

Al-Baz on Iraq-Kuwait, Egypt-PLO Disputes

JN2507115890 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 24 Jul 90 p 15

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of President Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs and first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, by Yusuf al-Sharif in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [al-Sharif] The sudden crisis between Iraq on the one hand and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates on the other and also between the PLO and Egypt has prompted AL-WATAN to conduct this interview with you. In short, what is Egypt's opinion, and how is it tackling the two crises?

[Al-Baz] Egypt is of the opinion that what has taken place is not a problem or crisis reflecting the existence of basic Arab conflicts, whether between Iraq and Kuwait, or between Iraq and any other country, or between Egypt and the PLO. The question is simply one of differences over the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. I believe this dispute can be solved cordially and by taking Arab common destiny and pan-Arab interests into consideration. President Mubarak has spoken on this subject some time ago with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. The impression he came out with was that it is the intention of both sides to contain this dispute, and I will not call it conflict since there cannot be any conflict between two Arab countries, especially neighboring countries which are supposed to establish ties of solidarity and to hold an identity of viewpoints concerning pan-Arab security against the dangers threatening the entire Arab nation.

Actually, these are transient and temporary differences. We believe a solution will be reached even if takes some time.

Of course, the open exchange of accusations will require some time to calm down feelings. But, as I said, since there is no conflict over the higher interests between the two parties and the leaders in both countries have expressed willingness to settle their differences, we believe it will be possible to reach an acceptable solution to these differences. We want to eliminate the impression held by many people outside the Arab region that differences between Arabs are deeper than those between Arabs and non-Arabs.

All these impressions, allegations, and innuendoes are very harmful. Furthermore, the continuation of differences on the various popular levels could generate a feeling of bitterness and conflict. This is neither in the interest of the Arab nation, nor of Iraq, Kuwait, or any other Arab country. Thus, we hope the differences will be contained before they exacerbate and generate such negative effects.

[Al-Sharif] What is the real crisis in Egyptian-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Baz] There is no dispute between us and the PLO, because we are not imposing anything on it. We recognize the PLO's right as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to choose the political method it considers suitable to secure Palestinian rights. We have communicated this to the PLO and we have not tried to impose any option on it. Our role was merely one of a mediator to achieve dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration, since this was a Palestinian demand which the PLO has sought actively. All that we have done was to help achieve and maintain this dialogue.

At first, the United States contacted the PLO through non-Arab parties, including the Swedish foreign minister, and other Arab and non-Egyptian parties until an understaning was reached between the PLO leadership and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to establish dialogue between the two sides if the PLO took certain specific steps. The PLO took those steps and the dialogue started. Therefore, we are not the godfathers of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. If the PLO does not want this dialogue, we will not try to build the bridges of dialogue between it and the United States once again. If the PLO wants to create a crisis in its relations with the United States, this is its own affair and option. We will not interfere. We will only intervene within the limits which we see are in the Palestinian interest as viewed and expressed by the PLO.

[Al-Sharif] What about after the United States broke off the dialogue?

[Al-Baz] The PLO complained the dialogue was broken off and said the severance would harm the Palestine question and its image in the minds of the American people, and that Israel would consider this a gain and try to bring down the bridges of dialogue between the Palestinian and American people. Accordingly, President Husni Mubarak telephoned Bush more than once and sent him two letters on the subject within a short period of time—something he has not done for any other problem—urging him to resume the dialogue. When Egypt adopts such a policy, it should be the last party that PLO officials, irresponsible elements, or those enjoying the PLO leaders' protection shoot their arrows at. We believe the Palestinian brothers should rise above this, because we do only what they want us to do, and what we believe is in the Palestinians' interest. We are not asking anything of them, nor are we imposing anything on them, because we stand to gain nothing if the PLO adopts this or that policy to secure its rights. There are no special demands, and Egypt pursues no interest in adopting the Palestinian position. On the contrary, if we reduce our involvement in the Palestinian issue, our relationship with the United States would be more serene and much easier and would achieve more in the interest of Egypt.

[Al-Sharif] Newspapers have cited president 'Arafat as saying that al-Nahhas Pasha told the Palestinian delegation in London "give them the Wailing Wall and rid ourselves of it." How true is this?

[Al-Baz] To begin with, everyone says this phrase was not said by the Wafd Party leader. Some people alleged it was said by 'Ali Mahir. Even if it was said by this or that person, it should not be taken out of context and used to prove that this was the Egyptian policy in the fifties and forties. This is untrue. First of all, the historical record about these words is doubtful. Supposing they were said, does this undermine the Egyptian policy on the Palestine question? Who entered the war in 1948? Who denies the Egyptian revolution broke out because of the Palestine question? Regrettably, this gives the impression that what is meant is defamation and giving the impression that Egypt is pressuring the PLO into adopting weak positions, and this is far from the truth. We have nothing to do with it except support the Palestinian people and act in solidarity with their struggle. If the PLO leadership expresses the desire for Egypt not to play a certain role, we will fully agree.

[Al-Sharif] Can you tell us the contents of the message 'Arafat recently sent to President Mubarak?

[Al-Baz] 'Arafat sent an oral message explaining the situation and noting that he has not said anything intended to harm or offend the Egyptian people or Egypt's policy. He said he was only saying that it was difficult for some Arab leaders to comprehend the dimensions of the Zionist schemes. He gave as an example Amin al-Husayni, a Palestinian personality, and Mustafa al-Nahhas, a non-Palestinian Arab personality.

However, regardless of whether the incident is verified, bringing it up was a mistake and incomprehensible.

[Al-Sharif] Much uproar has been caused by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid's failure to attend the Arab League Council meeting. Why did Egypt not attend?

[Al-Baz] To attend the Arab League Council meeting, we must first know the purpose of the meeting, whether holding the meeting at a certain date serves the Arab cause, whether the Arab foreign ministers should attend, what the outcome of the meeting will be, and if the foreign ministers should attend personally. We are now busily preparing for the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, scheduled for the end of this month in Cairo. We also had several visits, especially Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Cairo.

From the beginning, we knew the seriousness of the U.S. measure, and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left for the United States. We flew for 13 hours for that purpose, then returned. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid spent three days in the United States discussing this issue. If our travel to Tunis will produce any pan-Arab or national advantage for the Palestinian people in proportion to the tasks they left and the time they devoted to that subject, we have to go there. But what can we do there more than what we did in the United States? Show our solidarity? We have already shown solidarity in many ways. There is no solidarity more than the president's contact with the U.S. President by telephone. The president sent two messages to Bush and also dispatched the deputy prime minister and foreign minister to meet with Bush and other officials. Therefore, only three foreign ministers attended the ministerial meeting in Tunis.

[Al-Sharif] How far have Middle East peace efforts reached?

[Al-Baz] The Middle East peace efforts have reached a stalemate as a result of Israel's intransigence. If a detente does not occur in the Israeli position, we and the other parties involved in the peace process should reassess our positions and consider alternatives as Israel blocks the road to any move or progress by adopting intransigent positions and placing obstacles every time we try to take a step forward or even a preparatory one. This does not mean peace efforts have stopped or failed and that we have to resort other ways. Peace efforts should have options and alternatives so we can choose what is appropriate under the current circumstances. Two years ago, there was no talk about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. It was only a transitory idea launched last year, but we believed it might benefit the Palestine question, as decided by the PLO and its leadership. Therefore, we cooperated to arrange such a dialogue, although it was difficult as a result of Israel's intransigence. Consequently, it was necessary to search for other ways.

[Al-Sharif] Will 'Arafat arrive in Cairo within days as previously scheduled, or will the current crisis postpone the visit?

[Al-Baz] There was no date set or agreement on 'Arafat's visit. 'Arafat can come to Cairo any time he wishes.

[Al-Sharif] Do you believe the current crisis between the PLO and Egypt can be overcome?

[Al-Baz] What happened is a pause, not a crisis. We know many Palestinian and Arab brothers are frustrated by the intransigent Israeli position and by failure to realize the dreams of many Arabs. Whenever such frustration occurs, hopes are pinned on Egypt, being the eldest and strongest brother, who is expected to take action. This is wrong and unacceptable, and no Arab party should view the largest Arab country in this way.

We should dot the i's and cross the t's. Who is responsible for the suspension of the dialogue? Who is responsible for failure to start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue? Is Egypt responsible? Who is responsible for the suspension of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue? Does the PLO want to resume this dialogue? If it does not want to resume it, we will support its position and if it wants to resume it, the Arab countries, as well as Egypt, are ready to talk to the United States. Some Western states, including Britain, also are talking about this issue and also are mediating, although Britain is not involved in any dialogue and does not hold a dialogue with the PLO itself. We do not see any crisis between us and the PLO because there is no issue over which we differ, and if we have certain views, we disclose them publicly. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Perez de Cuellar Message

NC2607110190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Ambassador 'Amr Musa, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations, today.

Ambassador Musa gave 'Abd-al-Majid a message from the UN secretary general about the UN's efforts in support of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories and the secretary general's efforts to propel the Middle East peace process.

Morocco

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 25 Jul

LD2507234390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Morocco this evening on a visit to our country at the invitation of his Moroccan counterpart, Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

At Mohamed V International Airport the Chinese minister made a statement concerning this visit in which he explained that despite the long distance that separates the two countries there is an old relationship in which the two countries have cooperated in the field of international relations and within the framework of solidarity of Third World countries.

The Chinese minister also noted that he will discuss with the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and other personalities bilateral cooperation, regional conditions, and questions of mutual interest.

He ended his statment by saying this visit will have positive effects on the development of relations of friendship and cooperation between China and the Moroccan kingdom.

He was welcomed at the aiport by Moulay Ahmed Cherkaoui, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and the Chinese ambassador to Morocco.

[Rabat MAP in French at 1000 GMT on 24 Jul 90 reports: "The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, will pay an official visit to Morocco from 25 to 28 July at the invitation of his Moroccan counterpart, Mr. Abdellatif Filali."]

King Hassan Receives Algerian Party Leaders

LD2507040390 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received on the royal ship Marrakechat at noon today Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front. Then he received Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, accompanied by a member of the front. Then his majesty received Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, who was accompanied by some members of the party. Then his majesty received Sa'id Sa'adi, secretary general of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, accompanied by a member of the rally. Then his majesty received Sadeq Hadjeres, first secretary general of the Socialist Vanguard Party, who was accompanied by a member of his party. His majesty also received (Tahar Dahman), deputy leader of the Popular Association for Unity and Action. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Returns Home From Algiers Summit

LD2507173190 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Tangier, 25 Jul (MAP)—King Hassan II this evening returned to Tangier, northern Morocco, from Algeria, aboard the royal ship Marrakech after participating in the Maghreban summit conference held on Sunday and Monday [23 and 24 July] at the Palais de Nations in the Algerian capital. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

BDF Commander Notes Need for Modern Weapons

JN2507155490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Manama, 25 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent, acting prime minister, and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force [BDF], has confirmed the BDF's eagerness to secure the modern weapons, installations, and equipment to enable it to perform its noble mission on the basis of carefully planned and studied programs and in accordance with the rationalization plan the state wants to implement.

Shaykh Hamad made the abovementioned statement when chairing a meeting on the BDF's budget here today. The budget was discussed against the background of future plans and projects for modernizing and enhancing the BDF's defense capabilities.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the BDF, and senior BDF officers.

Kuwait

Amir Phones Mubarak, King Fahd on Recent Events

LD2507132890 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] His highness the amir of the country telephoned his brother, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and sovereign of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His highness also telephoned his brother, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt. Recent events in the region and their latest developments were reviewed during these telephone calls.

Prime Minister Seeks To Negotiate With Iraq

LD2507154690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1454 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 25 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'ad al-'Abadallah Al Sabah said here Wednesday that Kuwait is seeking to end the crisis with Iraq in a manner that would serve the interests of both countries.

"Kuwait has been and still is truthfully willing to meet the brothers in Iraq to negotiate within a fraternal atmosphere a formula serving the interests of the two brotherly countries," Sheikh Sa'ad told a group of prominent Kuwaiti figures representing public societies and organizations.

"We as officials are still making a lot of efforts to deal with the (Iraqi-Kuwaiti) question in wisdom and carefulness, "the premier said, adding that he is "hopeful...that a formula would be reached and the relations with Iraq would return to normal."

However, Sheikh Sa'ad did not hide his surprise at the contents of the first Iraqi letter to the Arab League, calling it "full of false and erroneous information."

On behalf of the visiting group, head of the Kuwaiti social association Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sarawi said the Iraqi letter to the Arab League "came to set on fire the atmosphere, ... make intense the souls and ruin the relations between the two states."

Government Discusses Developments in Iraq Dispute

LD2507184390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1808 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 25 (KUNA)—H.H. the Amir Sheikh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah Wednesday briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of the contacts being exerted by Arab leaders to contain the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

Minister of state for cabinet affairs 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi said H.H. the amir also briefed the cabinet on his "positive" meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak who visited Kuwait yesterday within the framework of a tour that also took him to Baghdad and Jeddah.

In light of Arab efforts and contacts, al-'Awadi said Kuwait rejects the method of pressure and intimidation and reaffirms its belief for pursuing the method of brotherly dialogue to resolve all differences between the Arabs.

He added that Kuwait expresses its appreciation for the sincere efforts being exerted by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to contain the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute and to reach a just and lasting solution to the dispute which maintains the legitimate rights for both sides in accordance with the international and Arab charters.

According to the Kuwaiti minister, Kuwait expresses hope that the sincere Arab efforts would come out with positive results which restore (?the natural) relations between Kuwait and Iraq and to end the differences which will keep the Arab nation away from divisions and ruptures and strengthen Arab solidarity.

Klibi Arrives To Discuss Iraq's 'Passing Crisis'

LD2507180490 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Kuwait 25 Jul (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived here this evening from Baghdad.

During this visit, which is the second this week, Mr. Klibi will discuss with senior officials the efforts exerted by the Arab League to contain the passing crisis between Iraq and Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Meets With Prime Minister

LD2607073890 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0650 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 26 Jul (KUNA)—The Arab League secretary general, Mr. Chedli Klibi, conferred here today with the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah.

The statement by the office of the heir apparent and prime minister, which was issued here today, did not give any details about what was discussed at the meeting. However, it is thought that they discussed the efforts exerted to contain the current crisis between Kuwait and Iraq within the context of the Arab family.

The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad; secretary of the office of the heir apparent and prime minister, Mr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Bahr; and undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Sulayman Majid al-Shahin. [passage omitted]

Leaves For Tunis 26 Jul

LD2607091390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0846 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 26 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Arab league Chedli Klibi left here this Thursday returing to Tunis after a short visit to Kuwait.

Klibi Thursday met H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah and H.H the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah in presence of minister of state for foreign affairs Shaykh Nassir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

Upon his arrival here last night Klibi held talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah on Arab League and some Arab state's efforts to contain the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait.

Egypt's Al-Baz Arrives for Talks on Iraq Crisis

LD2607141390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1311 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 26 (KUNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's political adviser Dr. Usamah al-Baz arrived here Thursday from Baghdad on a short visit. Al-Baz told reporters upon arrival that he is conveying a message from President Mubarak to H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

He expressed optimism that the week-long Kuwait-Iraqi dispute would be resolved soon. He was received at the airport by undersecretary of foreign affairs Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Delivers Mubarak Message to Amir

LD2607144190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1427 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait 26 July KUNA—The Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah today received a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, concerning the latest developments of Arab efforts regarding the situation in the region.

The message was conveyed by the Egyptian president's envoy, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, during [words indistinct] and the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait.

Editorial Urges Iraq To Reduce Escalation

JN2507200990 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 25 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "What Iraq Should Do"]

[Text] Whoever reads reports by Arab and world press and news agencies concerning the developments in Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations will discover two diametrically opposed trends that prompt serious consideration. Arab leaders and media are, on the one hand, racing to control the crisis and confine it within the narrowest limits. Arab efforts in this regard are worthy of appreciation and support, especially because they aim to ward off new hazards and conflicts from befalling our nation, after we have been exhausted by conflicts, contradictions, and disputes, which have only benefited the enemies of the Arabs.

The other side of the picture shows some anti-Arab media racing to highlight the escalation of the situation and the confrontation. They are also trying to complicate matters through insinuation and exaggeration, and sometimes, making up untrue reports.

These two trends in Arab and world media should merit the attention of every thinking person and prompt him to reflect on the crisis. This is because the decision to escalate things is an easy one; but the decision to lessen this escalation once it has been raised is complicated, multidimensional. Perhaps the experiences of the Arabs and non-Arabs contain a great deal attesting to this fact.

Therefore, what fraternal Iraq should do—as it is the primary party addressed in this regard—is to review the calculations of the past few days, deal with Kuwait in a spirit of pan-Arab responsibility, and not to think in terms of the strong and the weak or the big and the small in its calculations in dealing with Kuwait.

The enemies of the nation have begun to make preparations and to deal with this problem from a perspective contrary to regional perspectives, and according to interests that are out of keeping with pan-Arab interests.

If any serious tension takes place, it will primarily create an overall chaos affecting Arab alliances, and will deal a painful blow to Arab solidarity established at the Baghdad summit. It will also lead to an all-encompassing chaos, spreading to affect the situation of the regional oil market, which is already vulnerable, so that major consumers might capitalize on it to harm Iraq and the brothers of Iraq in the Gulf region.

Iraq should have use a great deal of wisdom and less media and non-media escalation, because this might boomerang on us all in the region, and might lead the Gulf region, including Iraq, to a dark tunnel with no apparent end—a fate we do not wish for ourselves, Iraq, or for any Arab country.

Papers View 'Positive Developments' in Iraq Issue

LD2607084190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0719 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 26 (KUNA)—Kuwait dailies Thursday expressed satisfaction over the positive developments in the Iraq-Kuwait dispute.

Daily AL-WATAN asserted that Arab problems cannot be solved but by the Arabs themselves. Commenting on the latest encouraging developments to end the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq, the daily said these developments keep the shadow of foreign intervention away from the Arab Gulf region .

The paper expresed confidence that the "enemies of our region are saddened by these positive developments" because it stops them from achieving their goals in the Arab territories and wealth. At the conclusion AL-WATAN expressed hope that the national interest would be above all considerations and that development and prosperity would be achieved in the Arab region in order to put all the Arabs' capabilities in the interest of the Arabs.

Daily AL-QABAS said that it is not difficult to solve the differences between Kuwait and Iraq. The paper referred to several facts that could help ease the tension between the two countries. Among these facts the paper referred to the geographical location of the two countries and a much-needed Arab solidarity regarding the changes in the world.

The real fact, the paper said quoting H.H. the Amir of Kuwait, is that solving a dispute between brothers is not difficult to settle as long as good intentions are existing.

Welcoming President Mubarak's announcement about Iraq's final acceptance to hold direct talks with Kuwait in Jeddah at the weekend, the English-language "KUWAIT TIMES" daily said the [words indistinct] is heartening as well as Iraq's assurances it will not attack Kuwait and will stop its propaganda campaign as of today.

The paper repeated assertions made by Kuwaiti crown prince and premier when receiving yesterday a group of leading figures representing public and social organisations that "Kuwait has been and still is truthfully willing to meet the brothers in Iraq to negotiate within a fraternal spirit." The newspaper underlined, however, direct talks between Iraq and Kuwait cannot yield positive results if one party attempts to impose pre-conditions, referring to agency reports that Baghdad is pressing ahead with the conditions that were laid down in its memo to the Arab League.

It urged more efforts by the Egyptian leader and the Arab League secretary to ensure that the Jeddah talks would be free of any coercion or pre-conditions. The paper believed that the Jeddah talks should tackle the root-cause of the problem, that is demarcation of the common border between Iraq and Kuwait, rather than off-shoots of the dispute. Appreciating mediation efforts of those who worked hard to make talks possible, the daily concluded that Kuwait will go to Jeddah "with a clean state and clear conscience."

A fourth paper, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM reiterated that bonds of fraternity between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people were stronger than any passing dispute or temporary crisis but expressed disappointment at the attitude of some Arab parties as bystanders to the difference.

The paper, monitoring regional and international reactions, said forces hostile to the Arabs always wait to "fish in troubled waters" and [words indistinct] made by a Palestinian paper published in occupied Jerusalem of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis as a "stab in the back."

Appreciating the mediation of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Arab League, AL-RA'Y hope it would reach a successful conclusion and gloaters would die with their malice.

Oman

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Saddam Message to Sultan

JN2507150190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received today at his office at the Royal Palace in Salalah Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab, who delivered a message to his majesty from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari and the Iraqi ambassador to the Sultanate.

Republic of Yemen

Iraqi President's Envoy Arrives in Sanaa 25 Jul

JN2507195090 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Sanaa, July 25, INA—Mr. Samir Muhammed 'Abd-al-Wahhab, interior minister, the personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn to Yemeni President, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, arrived here today.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab will convey a message from President Husayn to President Salih dealing with bilateral relations and regional developments.

The Iraqi official was received at Sanaa airport by Mr Ghalib Mahir al-Gimsh, Yemeni interior and security minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Earlier today Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab delivered a message from President Husayn to the Omani Monarch, Sultan Qabus, during his audience with the sultan in Oman's southern city of Salalah.

President Salih Receives DFLP's Hawatimah

JN2507150390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received at his office today brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], who expressed his congratulations and blessings to the brother president and the masses of our Yemeni people on reuniting the Yemeni homeland and establishing the Republic of Yemen. He said that this historic pan-Arab achievement is good news for the Arabs and a contribution that strengthens the march of the Palestinian struggle, providing it with a strong and new rigor that guarantees new ability for the Arab nation and the Palestinian people to confront the challenges imposed by the enemies, foremost of which is the Zionist enemy.

During the meeting, they also discussed struggle relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and new developments and issues of interest to our Arab nation, primarily the developments of the Palestine question in light of the escalating Palestinian intifadah.

The Presidential Council chairman reaffirmed that Yemeni unity is a gain for all Arabs, headed by the sons of the Palestinian people. The Republic of Yemen—leadership, government, and people—will remain committed to its firm and principled stands toward the Palestinian Arab people's cause and their just struggle for self-determination and establishing their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO.

Saudi Arabia

Planes, Reward Used To Track Down Armed Group

NC2507185290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The Saudi regime has begun using a number of planes especially designed for use in combating guerrilla warfare in an attempt to track down the members of an organization engaged in armed struggle against that regime. According to the magazine RISALAT AL-HARAMAYN, mouthpiece of the Hejaz Ulema Grouping, the organization in question, which calls itself al-Rashshash [machine gun], has spread panic among Saudi army and national guard personnel by engaging in armed attacks against the Al Sa'ud dynasty.

The magazine said that despite the fact that the al-Rashshash group has not mounted any operations against the Al Sa'ud dynasty for a long time now, the Hejaz security service has so far failed in arresting the leader and members of that group. Therefore, the Army and national guard are still afraid of attack by the al-Rashshash group.

The magazine said that the Saudi officers' anxiety prompted the regime's interior minister to post a reward for anyone providing information about the leader of that group. The minister also ordered military operations and combing in the desert and mountain area in southern Saudi Arabia, the area rumored to be the stronghold of the al-Rashshash group.

United Arab Emirates

Spokesman Explains 'Routine Maneuvers' With U.S.

LD2507161690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1245 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 25 (KUNA)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] on Wednesday said that UAE and American forces are currently holding limited routine manuevers not related to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi dispute.

"They are not more than a technical training program agreed upon previously and not linked with the sudden developments in the region," a government spokesman emphasized.

The spokesman added that "in light of statements by an Iraqi spokesman on the existence of joint American-UAE exercises, the (UAE) Foreign Ministry would like to clarify.... That the UAE conducts routine military exercises, especially at this period of the year, as part of a training program."

The U.S. last night announced that American and UAE forces began "a limited exercies," noting that the U.S. always conducts exerciese in the waters of the Arabian Gulf with its friends in the area.

The UAE spokesman said press reports and Iraqi statements on the limited exercise were "unjustified exaggerations."

Statement Denies Joint Maneuvers

JN2507151890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1347 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jul (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has confirmed that there are no joint military maneuvers or exercises taking place between its Armed Forces and U.S. forces and that the statements and comments on this are unjustified exaggeration.

In a statement carried by WAM [Emirates News Agency] today, an official UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said that the statement made in this regard by an official U.S. spokesman referred only to a part of a technical program previously agreed upon and which has nothing to do with the latest developments in the region.

The spokesman pointed out that the UAE conducts regular and periodic exercises, especially at this time of the year as part of previously-planned training programs to upgrade the efficiency of the UAE Armed Forces.

Shaykh Zayid Receives PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas

JN2507191390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, 25 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received in Rabat today Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

During the meeting, they reviewed current Arab issues, recent developments in the Palestine question on both the Arab and international scenes, and the latest regional developments.

Sudanese Official Gives News Conference 24 Jul

JN2507160190 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 July 90 p 4

[Excerpts] Staff Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and head of the Political Committee, has praised the outstanding bonds between the United Arab Emirates and the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, whose bases were laid down by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, and Lieutenant General President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the NSRCC chairman.

At a news conference last night in the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel, the Sudanese official expressed thanks to his highness the president of the state for the constant support he has extended to his brothers in Sudan and the unceasing efforts he has exerted supporting Sudan and its causes. [passage omitted]

On developments in Sudan, Brig. Gen. 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan said that all political forces in Sudan have agreed, after the convocation of the national dialogue conference, that federation is the most appropriate solution to the plight of Sudan, and constitutes a suitable groundwork for governing.

He added that the NSRCC is making immense efforts to provide an opportunity for all political forces in the country, regardless of their trends and inclinations, to express their political beliefs, take part in ruling the country, and to put forward their proposals concerning peace in the country, resolving the issue of the south and the economic reform, which is essential and which has been embraced by the revolution, in order to settle the accumulated economic problems, achieve self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, and curb imports so as to save hard currency.

He added that the Sudanese NSRCC firmly believes that any solution to the problem of the south based on military force and implemented by armed forces will be fruitless and will not solve the major problem, because war might resume. [passage omitted]

Asked whether there is Israeli infiltration into southern Sudan, the Sudanese envoy said that there is a close link between Israel and the rebel movement in the south, and that the movement is supported by Israel. He also said that 3.5 million Sudanese were forced to immigrate from the south to the north because of the policy of terrorism and violence practiced by the rebel movement.

Replying to a question about efforts by the Sudanese revolution to overcome economic problems and raise the standard of living in the country, the steps taken in this regard, and the extent to which these steps are in harmony with the IMF demands, the Sudanese envoy said that the Sudanese Government held an economic conference and drafted an economic program to effect economic reform in the country in the next three years. This program, therefore, became known as the triple economic program. [passage omitted]

Aldo Ajo Deng, NSRCC Political Committee's adviser and member of the delegation accompanying Brig. Gen. 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan added said that the federal system is the most appropriate formula for governing Sudan. Moreover, he said, it is a political system for all the sons of Sudan, and is the best solution to avoid the drawbacks of the 1972 experience, when the south was granted self-rule which dissociated it from the north. He added that the south is not the absolute property of John Garang, and that the opportunity to achieve peace is now very advantageous under the umbrella of the national salvation government, which is working sincerely for peace and for all Sudanese.

He added that some of the supporters of the Democratic Grouping [al-tajammu' al-dimoqrati] attempted to connive with John Garang to topple the Sudanese regime. These attempts, however, ended in failure because the Sudanese people have become aware of the aims of the insurgent movement, and know that it is not working for peace for all Sudanese. He further noted: We are not ready to be a stepping stone for some of the political parties to attempt to take control of the helm in Khartoum. He reasserted the need for unified efforts in favor of the one Sudan and all the Sudanese, regardless of their creeds and political affiliations.

Egypt's Al-Baz Delivers Message to Saddam

NC2607105290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0959 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received a message from President Husni Mubarak today. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, delivered the message when he met with the Iraqi president today.

Al-Baz told the MENA correspondent in Baghdad that the message deals with the current developments in the Arab arena.

Al-Baz arrived in Baghdad this morning for a few hours' visit to Iraq. A number of Iraqi officials and the Egyptian ambassador to Iraq, Sayyid Abu-Zayd, received al-Baz at the airport.

Further Details on Klibi, Tariq 'Aziz Meeting

LD2507110990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0920 GMT 25 Jul 90

["Pool" item]

[Text] Baghdad, July 25 (TAP)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met here Tuesday evening with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Chedli Klibi's visit is within the framework of a good offices mission in the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute, an informed source reported here.

The 50-minute meeting focussed on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis which occurred after Iraqi accusations against [words indistinct] emirate, the source added.

According to the source, Klibi carried out a similar mission in Kuwait last week-end. Before his departure from Tunis to Baghdad Tuesday morning, Klibi had a telephone conversation with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah.

Iraq rejected Tuesday evening the Kuwaiti proposal for the creation, within the framework of the Arab League, of a commission for the settlement of the conflict on the delineation of the border with Kuwait.

Saddam Receives Klibi

JN2507125190 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

During the audience recent developments in the region and on the Arab arena were discussed.

Present at the audience was Mr. Tariq 'Aziz deputy premier and foreign minister.

Klibi Departs 25 Jul

JN2507190090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Baghdad this evening at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Iraq. Klibi was seen off at the airport by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the head of the Arab Department at the ministry.

Saddam's Envoy Travels To Meet Maghreb Leaders

Confers With Tunisian President

JN2507131990 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tunis, July 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn's envoy Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamzah today conveyed in an audience a message to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia on bilateral ties and new events in the region.

The envoy had arrived here yesterday within a tour also covering Mauritania and Morocco.

Conveys Message to 'Arafat

JN2507131790 Baghdad INA in English 1133 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tunis, July 25, INA—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat received a message from President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations and recent developments in the region.

The message was delivered by President Husayn's envoy, Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamzah during his meeting with Mr. 'Arafat here today, in the presence of the Iraqi and Palestinian ambassadors to Tunisia.

Leaves Tunisia 25 Jul

JN2507165490 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tunis, July 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn's envoy Minister of Transport and Communications Muhammad Hamzah today left here winding up a two-day visit.

The envoy conveyed two messages from President Husayn to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on bilateral ties and new events in the region.

It is to be recalled that President Husayn's envoy is now on a tour also covering Mauritania and Morocco.

Meets With Mauritanian President

JN2507193790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 25 Jul (INA)—Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed, Mauritanian president and chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, has received a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

Presidential envoy Muhammad Hamzah conveyed the message during a meeting with the Mauritanian president here today. Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba—Mauritanian minister of interior, post, and telecommunications—and the Iraqi ambassador in Nouakchott attended the meeting.

Muhammad Hamzah, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi minister of transport and communications, arrived in Nouakchott from Tunis this morning as part of a tour during which he will convey similar messages to leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Arrives in Rabat

JN2507201890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, 25 Jul (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and minister of transport and communication, arrived here this evening.

In a statement to INA, Muhammad Hamzah said that he is carrying a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother King Hassan II of Morocco on bilateral ties and recent Arab developments.

It is to be recalled that Muhammad Hamzah, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and minister of transport and communication, handed similar messages during earlier visits to Tunis and Nouakchott to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

Sudanese Interior Minister Arrives With Message

JN2107180690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Staff Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Sudanese interior minister and personal envoy to leader President Saddam Husayn from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon.

In a statement to INA upon his arrival, the Sudanese envoy said that during his visit to Iraq he will convey a written message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother the Sudanese president dealing with the latest developments in Sudan, as well as with the close relations between the two fraternal countries. He was received at the airport by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al- Wahhab and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Gives Letter to Saddam

JN2207104690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, dealing with fraternal bilateral relations and developments in Sudan.

The message was handed to the president by Staff Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Sudan's interior minister and al-Bashir's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn, during an audience this morning.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Ministers Hold Talks

JN2207172090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—Delegations representing the Iraqi Interior Ministry and the Sudanese Interior Ministry began talks here today to promote cooperation. The Iraqi side was led by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab and the Sudanese side by Staff Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council and interior minister.

Talks centered on the existing cooperation between the two ministries in the public security and civil defense sectors.

Leaves Baghdad 25 Jul

JN2507092890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Staff Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Sudanese interior minister and personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, left Baghdad today. [passage omitted]

Saddam Envoy Leaves for Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia

JN2407195190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has left

Baghdad for Khartoum on the first leg of a tour that will also take him to Djibouti and Somalia.

Leaves Khartoum for Djibouti

JN2507165390 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, July 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn's envoy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud left here today heading for Djibouti concluding a day-visit to Sudan.

The Iraqi envoy conveyed a message to chairman of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir from President Husayn on bilateral ties and new events in the region.

Saddam Receives Visiting Nicaraguan Official

JN2507165290 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn received in audience here today Mr. George Hallaq [name as received], representative of Nicaragua for the Middle East affairs.

Mr. Hallaq conveyed to President Husayn a verbal message from Nicaragua's President, Violeta Chamorro, and former president Daniel Ortega, dealing with bilateral relations and their wish to develop them.

President Husayn asked Mr Hallaq to convey his regards to President Chamorro and Mr Ortega.

Present in audience was also Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister.

Trade Minister Returns From Amman ACC Meeting

JN2007142590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih returned to Baghdad today after participating in the third meeting of trade, industry, and supply ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states, which concluded in Amman yesterday. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Called 'Zionist-American Conspiracy' Tool

JN2507105490 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad said that the Kuwaiti Government had volunteered to be a tool for Zionist-American conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

In its editorial the paper said that all should realise starting from Sabah al-Ahmad and ending with his masters in the White House that Iraq would never allow any party to prejudice its legitimate rights.

Iraq had unveiled violations committed by the Kuwaiti Government against it, these violations are obviously connected with Zionist-American conspiracy, in which the Kuwaiti Government plays the role of executor and the United States as the guardian.

The daily refuted allegations of the Kuwaiti Government on assisting Iraq, saying that at a time the Kuwaiti media published void statements and articles on the Arab fraternity and solidarity and alleged aids offered by the Kuwaiti Government to Iraq during the wartime, this government had speedily sent a memo to the Arab League and to the U.N. secretary general and the Security Council.

The daily added that memo of the Kuwaiti Government tried to evade the conclusive facts contained in the Iraqi message on its deviative oil policies, namely policies aimed at undermining the Iraqi economy, inflicting damages on economies of eight Arab countries and depriving other Arab countries from tangible potentials for support and aids.

The paper further said that memo of the Kuwaiti Government had also tried to twist the facts, alleging that Iraq had a record rife with trespasses on the Kuwaiti land while Iraq was precoccupied in the war throughout eight years, and there was no any Iraqi soldier or policeman or border guard free to sneak into Kuwaiti land. [sentence as received]

The Kuwaiti Government itself found in this very circumstance an easy opportunity to manage the gradual and systematic advance to the Iraqi territory, and to consolidate its presence by building military and oil installations, border posts and farms while Iraq was patiently observing these violations.

The paper held the Kuwaiti Government responsible for not demarcating the borders, while the Kuwaiti memo had alleged that Iraq was rejecting to demarcate the borders, the matter which was a sophistry and refuted by conclusive documents, facts and proceedings.

File of this pending question between Iraq and Kuwait proves that Iraq has been always taking the initiative to discuss and settle it while the Kuwaiti Government was the party which was always evading to settle it under wrong pretexts.

The paper disclosed virtual motives behind the Kuwaiti Government stand saying that the matter which triggered this issue was the equivocal and conspiring policy followed by the Kuwaiti Government towards Iraq.

The paper touched upon harmony in stances between the Kuwaiti Government and its friends in the White House who talked on possibilities of danger besetting Kuwait and showed readiness to protect the friends in Kuwait.

This matter alone had unveiled the grave ploy played by the Kuwait Government and demonstrated its conspiratorial role against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper concluded by confirming that it was a conspiracy implemented by the Kuwaiti Government and

Sabah al-Ahmad in particular, while the United States and its fleets was assigned with protection.

Paper: 'No Foreign Power Can Protect' Kuwait

JN2507165690 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily has confirmed that no foreign power can protect he who conspires against the Arab nation and threatens its interests.

In its editorial for today, the daily has wondered why should Iraq stand silent towards infringements, stealing and devious stances if the Kuwaiti Government, which is used of [as received] taking advantage of this silence to move ahead with its premeditated policy of offending Iraq through stealing its riches and resources.

The daily has stressed that when Iraq reveals the facts to the Arab nation, it only does so out of its belief in the fact that the Arab nation, including the Kuwaiti people, has the right to know these facts and expose the evil doers who are in fact accomplices in a scheme hostile to the nation's rights and sovereignty.

The daily has further said that one look at the Kuwaiti rulers' stances confirms that they are pursuing a policy serving the Arab nation's enemies and causing great harm to Iraq and the Kuwait people as well. It has elaborated that flooding the world market with oil, sending prices plummeting, and the foot-dragging and maneuvering of the Kuwaiti rulers in responding to the Iraqi offer on supplying Kuwait with water from Shatt al-'Arab have nothing to do with the interests of the Kuwaiti people.

It has pointed out that when an Arab citizen sees no national interest in the Kuwaiti rulers' policy towards Iraq and the Kuwaiti people, he will soon find himself face-to-face with the bitter fact, the fact that those rulers are involved in a policy appeared to be part of a hostile plan targetting the Arab nation and Iraq in particular.

The paper has made it clear that if we are to disclose the full record, many brothers will be amazed when they realize that the rulers of Kuwait have wriggled out of any serious coordination, called for by Iraq.

Moreover, the daily added, they took advantage of Iraq's preoccupation with war and trespassed upon the Iraqi territory and oil fields, stealing its oil and setting up outposts and farms.

AL-THAWRAH has underlined that along eight years of war, the Kuwaiti Government had not extended a helping hand for Iraq, confirming that all the assistance it offered was in fact loans granted following frequent Iraqi requests, unlike other brothers who voluntarily helped Iraq out of their national commitment to an Arab country defending the nation's sovereignty and security.

Concerning the border issue, the daily has said that it is a problem of demarcation of the sea and land borders rather than delineation as the Kuwaiti side claims, drawing the attention to the Kuwaiti Government's failure to put forward any proposal on this issue and its continued attempts to raise this question in a climate unfavourable to any party.

It has inquired about the Arab nation's reaction if it ever find out the link between the stances of the Kuwaiti rulers and their contacts and coordination with the United States.

It has asserted that by internationalizing the dispute, the Kuwaiti rulers are only leaving the door wide open for the foreign powers to intervene in the region.

Concluding its article, the daily has confirmed that despite its being the target of conspiracies and plots, Iraq will never bend for any hardship or difficulty whatsoever.

Editorial: United Arab Position 'Only Option'

JN2607081290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—The unified Arab position against any aggression is the only method to safeguard and defend Arab existence, stresses the newspaper AL-THAWRAH. In an editorial today the paper refers to the dangers to the region's security and existence and says these dangers are caused by the fragmentation of the Arab nation and the dispersal of its power as well as the policy of expansion and aggression. The paper says every unification effort made by the Arabs solidifies the Arab position and backs up national and pan-Arab security. Liberation from apprehensions and obsessions is essential for all Arabs to deal logically and naturally with things as they stand.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the balance Iraq has created in the face of aggression is a main factor in liberating the Arab will and rendering it active and capable of confrontation instead of subordination and submission. It says that the past was characterized by the dissipation of Arab resources, adding that the Arab life cannot be put right without unifying Arab efforts and placing them on the right path.

The paper stresses that interaction and continuous exchange among the Arabs would bring hope and create a true pan-Arab climate that would lift the spirit, rectify the Arab march before the world, and give it a high degree of credibility and effectiveness.

The Arabs today and at all times find themselves with their only option: unity, says the paper. It says the true dangers are not only those represented by aggression and expansion but also lie in Arab fragmentation and divisions, in addition to the fears and obsessions dominating the minds of some people.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The national and pan-Arab interests cannot be achieved if we do not decide on a serious and unified position toward the dangers surrounding the nation and deal with these dangers on clear, uncontroversial bases. These dangers pose a direct and serious threat to our security and existence. This is the our only way out for safety. Those who wager on foreigners, on the other hand, will always be the losers.

Minister Invited for 'Official' Visit to USSR

TA2507135390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i was today invited on an official visit to the Soviet Union, at the head of a delegation of industrialists and entrepreneurs.

Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the invitation was delivered by Vladislav Malkevich, the president of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who is currently visiting Israel. Malkevich said that his country wished to encourage economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Israel, especially in the field of civilian aircraft, food processing, and the production of electrical goods. He expressed the hope of using the trade agreements between Israel and the United States and the EEC, to promote joint marketing. The Soviet Union is also interested in looking into the possibility of supplying raw goods to local factories and establishing an Israeli Chamber of Commerce in Moscow.

Minister Moda'i thanked the guest and said that he would forward the invitation for the cabinet's approval.

The Soviet guest also spoke with our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik and asserted that he intends to establish direct economic and commercial links with Israel, with the full support of the most senior levels in Moscow. He added that he does not anticipate new obstacles in the development of ties between the two countries. Malkevich also met today with Dani Gillerman, the head of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce, and they consolidated several agreements designed to strengthen Israeli-Soviet trade relations.

Arens on Iraqi Threats, Relations With U.S.

TA2507193690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1840 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Yoram Ronen and military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky; on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Good evening. The defense minister just yesterday expressed his opinion that the possibility of war is greater now than it was several months ago. Defense Minister Moshe Arens is our guest tonight. Good evening to you, Mr. Defense Minister, and to my colleague Moshe Shlonsky. Mr. Defense Minister, does your statement, regarding the danger of a military confrontation with Iraq, not strike you as a bit extreme or exaggerated today, when actually all we are talking about is a dispute between Kuwait and Iraq—mainly about oil?

[Arens] I was speaking about the probability, the danger of war, and I said what is clear to everyone: Saddam Husayn, the leader of Iraq, has already begun a war once—the Iran-Iraq war. He has a large army at his disposal and keeps on talking about war. Nevertheless, we must remember that Israel is not helpless; we have a good and strong army. We can trust in our deterrent capability. I think that Saddam Husayn would have to think about things one hundred times over before embarking on any adventure [previous word in Italian] of aggression against the State of Israel. I believe our deterrent capabilities will prevail in this case.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Defense Minister, Western intelligence sources, as well as Israeli experts say that Saddam Husayn's new policy stems, among other things, from a fear of Israel. He is concerned that Israel may take steps against him. Does Saddam Husayn have any reason to fear Israel?

[Arens] He has no reason to fear Israel. I have already told Mubarak this on one occasion when he wanted to convey a message to Saddam Husayn—and I am sure he has already delivered it to Saddam Husayn. However, this has apparently not caused the Iraqi leader to temper his statements.

[Shlonsky] Have you received any reactions to the Israeli message?

[Arens] We have not received any reaction.

[Shlonsky] Over the recent period anyway, and I am referring to the last three or four months, you have not been issuing such sharp statements, and suddenly this week you came out with a harsher statement. Has something happened over the past week or fortnight—for example the business in Kuwait—that gave you cause for alarm?

[Arens] No. Nothing out of the ordinary took place over the past week or 14 days. Kuwait is quite far away from Israel, and we are not involved and will not become involved in whatever happens there. I was simply quoting remarks I made earlier to the U.S. secretary of defense when we were discussing budgetary issues, strategic cooperation, and Israeli-U.S relations; and I stressed the need for closer relations, especially at this time. I consider our relations and strategic cooperation with the United States to constitute an important component of our deterrent capability. I would say that deterrence is the magic word. We do not wish to win wars, even though we can do so. We wish to deter anyone from starting a war.

[Shlonsky] As we are talking about deterrence, you received a promise in the United States that the Americans would continue financing the second stage in the development of the Arrow missile project. The Arrow, however, will only become operational in 1995. What are we supposed to do until 1995? What will be the Israeli answer to the Iraqi missiles or to the missiles of other Arab countries?

[Arens] First of all, I would prefer not to talk about the year in which the Arrow will reach operational capability....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] There were reports in the Western media....

[Arens, interrupting] Yes, there were reports. We will try and bring this date forward as much as possible, but this just shows how we have become used to a good thing; for many, many years nobody—not just in Israel but throughout the entire world—even dreamed of intercepting ballistic missiles in the air, and it was engineers in little Israel, of all places, who have brought us this solution, which is held in high regard worldwide, and in the United States. Obviously, it will take a little more time to finish developing the system, but in the meantime we have other ways to counter those self-same ballistic missiles, which have already been in the region for a great number of years.

[Shlonsky] Does the Patriot come into consideration?

[Arens] Excuse me?

[Shlonsky] The Patriot, the U.S. missile which was modified to be an antimissile missile.

[Arens] Yes, the Patriot is a more sophisticated antiaircraft system than the Hawk, which we have in our possession. It is an antiaircraft system with a limited—I would say very limited—capability against ballistic missiles. The procurement of the Patriot would certainly have improved our antiaircraft capabilities, and also to a certain, limited extent our position in the field of ballistic missiles. We are talking about money. This is one of the numerous items on a list which we would like to buy. We have not yet reached any decision, by the way. I also discussed our ever-increasing financial plight with Cheney, and by the way I am also going to raise it with the prime minister in light of the cut in the defense budget which was approved on Sunday [22 July] during my absence. This financial crunch is making things very difficult for us, and there are things we would like to carry out and will not be able to. There may even be things we are already in the process of implementing that we will have to cancel, if we cannot at least partially resolve our financial predicament.

[Ronen] To sum up this issue, Mr. Defense Minister, the military cooperation between Iraq and Jordan is a well-known fact. Would the presence of Iraqi military forces in Jordan constitute a casus belli for Israel?

[Arens] This is Israel's traditional policy, and it has not changed. What you describe would mean a radical change in the region's strategic situation, and I was happy to hear King Husayn—who addressed this matter not long ago—say that he understands this quite well.

[Shlonsky] Do the Americans share our concern over Saddam Husayn's declarations—without any connection to Kuwait?

[Arens] I think they do. We should remember that we are talking about a man who has already started a war. This is not a man who has been content in the past with mere declarations. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Sir, it is hard to ignore the growing criticism against Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, in connection with the accident at Ze'elim [in which five soldiers were killed] and other accidents. At today's Knesset session, Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi joined those who demand that the chief of staff be dismissed. What is your reaction?

[Arens] I do not share these demands. I have full faith in the chief of staff, who is in his last year of office. As you know, the former defense minister proposed to extend his tenure into the fourth year, and I believe there is no reason for us not to have full faith in this man who has such a brilliant battle and service record in our army. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] Do you agree with former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the intifadah has no military solution, only a political one? Is this your opinion, too?

[Arens] This is not my opinion. I believe it is basically wrong to utter this thought while at the same time tasking the IDF [Israel Defense Force] with the assignment of securing calm in the territories. We cannot task the IDF with this assignment and say at the same time that it is an impossible mission. This is a possible mission, and I am convinced that it will be done.

[Shlonsky] Is this disagreement tactical or ideological?

[Arens] Both tactical and ideological. I would say that even if my predecessor believed in it, in my opinion he should not have said so. I myself do not believe in it.

[Ronen] It seems that so far there have not been many tactical differences between Rabin's intifadah-quelling policy and yours—on the surface, at least. I may be wrong.

[Arens] You may be wrong. I assure you that my policy is not—and will not be—a copy of my predecessor's. I believe that if you examine the current events in the territories, the way the IDF has been operating, you will find that we act differently now—and, in my opinion, better.

[Ronen] Could you specify? Besides setting up a civil defense in the territories, I, at least, fail to discern a significant difference in the IDF's tactics of fighting the intifadah.

[Arens] I do not wish to specify, but I will repeat one thing I have already said in public: The IDF's target, the IDF's task, is first and foremost to ensure the territories residents' safety and wellbeing and to ensure safety on traffic axes. I do not believe this task was ever defined by my predecessor as clearly as it has been now. The IDF is at present focusing on this task, although not on this task alone; and I think the IDF is doing it with a certain degree of success.

[Shlonsky] If you believe the intifadah can be solved through military methods, why do you not instruct the IDF—through a cabinet decision—to vanquish the intifadah, to eradicate it? Under Minister Rabin, the cabinet was very wary of giving the Army such an order, such an instruction. But you have not changed the order, either.

[Arens] There are diverse ways of defining a task. I believe we all know how important it is to define it properly, rather than create a feeling that the Army is being tasked with an impossible mission which has to be concluded within a defined period of time, such as a week or two. The final goal is clear, however; we must calm the area in every way: from the point of view of the State of Israel's goals in the sphere of defense; from the point of view of our political goals; and, I believe, from the point of view of the desires of the territories' Arab population. We will do it.

[Ronen] I remember that in the first stages of the intifadah, former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin used to say: A few more months; six more months; three more months and the intifadah will die out. Can you define a period in which you estimate the intifadah will calm down?

[Arens] I do not wish to make assessments. Everyone knows that had the IDF wanted to use all its force, the intifadah would have ended within 24 hours. We are coping with mass violence, in which a significant portion of the population takes part, in the framework of norms and standards we have set before us. It is within the framework of these norms and standards that we will eventually bring about a quiet in the territories.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Minister, ever since you assumed office, you have stated the intention—which you implemented, too—to hold meetings with Palestinians. Will you meet with all the leadership? For instance, with the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership? If one scans the list of your meetings—at least the list that was made public—it becomes plain you have not met with Sari Nusaybah or Radwan Abu-'Ayyash. What about these people?

[Arens] I am just at the beginning of my meetings, but I am holding them with great frequency. I think there is no need to jump to conclusions from the list of people with whom I have met. By the way, most of the list has not been publicized. Occasionally, I held public meetings with people, and I am full of appreciation....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Self-acknowledged PLO people too?

[Arens] The details of meetings which were held publicly are known. I met with the mayor of Bethlehem and, in fact, with the entire Bethlehem municipal council.

[Ronen] The question is whether you met with Arab leaders who are identified with the PLO.

[Arens] I understand the question. I was speaking about my public meetings, which included a meeting in Bethlehem attended also by the mayors of Bayt Sahur and Bayt Jala. In an event hosted by the mayor of Dayr al-Balah, I met with the majority of people holding municipal jobs in Dayr al-Balah. Recently, I visited Dura where I was hosted by the head of the local council and where some 20 or 30 other people were present.

[Shlonsky] With your permission, sir, these are not leaders who are known as PLO people or as prominent leaders with whom we will be able to talk and reach some sort of arrangement.

[Arens] Yes; I was in the middle of saying something.

[Shlonsky] I beg your pardon.

[Arens] First of all, I do not think either I or anyone else among us should rate these people for leadership and determine who the leaders are. Can we say [Bethlehem mayor] Ilyas Frayj is not a leader? He was democratically elected and enjoys, even abroad, recognition as one of the most prominent figures in the Palestinian population. I would say that all the people with whom I met and whose names I just mentioned—and there is a long additional list of people with whom I have met but who did not want the meetings to be made public....[changes thought] I must note that I have a very high regard for their courage, because they had no safeguards for the secrecy of the meetings—although the meetings have indeed been kept secret. These are all people who speak on behalf of themselves, which in itself is important. I want to meet with a representative cross section of the population, to hear what ails them and what their ambitions, complaints, and expectations are. I would also like to tell them about our side of the problem. Therefore, I think, I will carry on in this vein and, in a month or two, when we speak again, I will be able to tell you: I have spoken with a representative cross section of the population. There is no need to point to this or that leader. At this stage, we are not looking for leaders; we will find them after we hold the elections. We will talk with anyone who is elected.

[Ronen] Mr. Minister, have you gained the impression so far that the peace process can be promoted without the consent of the PLO?

[Arens] I gained the impression that a considerable part of the population wish to promote the peace process and to reach elections; they do not necessarily desire the involvement of the PLO in the elections. What we find there—and this should come as no surprise to the Israelis—is that the main fear and apprehension is of Palestinians, of the daily assassinations. People there know who carries out these assassinations and who gives the orders to carry them out. It is the PLO, the terrorist organizations.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Minister, you have not answered my previous question: Will you meet with the acknowledged leaders of the territories, such as Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash?

[Arens] I am not about to announce in advance with whom I will meet.

[Shlonsky] But you have no objection, in principle.

[Arens] I said no such thing. I will hasten to add that I am not about to meet with Israeli Arabs—that is, with residents of the sovereign State of Israel and, as you know....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Is his having an apartment in Abu-Dis okay?

[Arens] Excuse me, as you know, Jerusalem is part of sovereign Israel.

[Shlonsky] But what if he has an apartment outside Jerusalem?

[Arens] This is not within the scope of my responsibilities.

[Ronen] Sir, Foreign Minister David Levi is leaving for Washington for an important meeting with Secretary of State Baker in less than a fortnight. Has there already been a debate in the cabinet, or in the Ministerial Committee on Defense Affairs regarding our response to Baker?

[Arens] No such discussion has yet been held, but I am sure it will take place before the foreign minister departs.

[Ronen] The question you formulated together with James baker, approximately six months ago, when you were still foreign minister, implies an at least tacit acceptance of the inclusion of one deportee in the Palestinian delegation, and perhaps also Arabs from East Jerusalem who enjoy dual residency. Do you today rescind your earlier agreement with James Baker?

[Arens] First of all, I am sorry to say that you are not being precise. The question I helped formulate was whether the State of Israel would be willing to examine, on a name-by-name basis, the potential participation of any resident of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in the Palestinian delegation to Cairo.

[Ronen] Including a deportee?

[Arens] No, no. This was not....

[Ronen, interrupting] Without this being specified in writing?

[Arens] Without this being specified in writing...

[Shlonsky] Let me put ask this differently, would you accept the participation of a deportee in the delegation?

[Arens] Now to respond to this question, which I know is very intriguing and interesting. I must say that during the period I served as foreign minister, I faced a problem in which other ministers in the government, the Alignment ministers, used to declare and announce their positions before any debate was held in the cabinet, before any decision was made by the cabinet—sometimes in contravention of decisions made by the cabinet. I will not do the same thing to David Levi, our new foreign minister. I believe that one of the advantages enjoyed by the current government is the fact that it is united; it speaks and will speak in one voice. Therefore, I will first express my opinions on this matter in the course of the discussion that will take place in the cabinet or within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Defense Affairs.

[Shlonsky] Will you be surprised if Foreign Minister Levi leaves for meetings with Baker without the cabinet first convening to prepare an answer?

[Arens] I am sure that consultations will be held before he leaves.

[Ronen] What is your opinion of Levi's statements that he demands an agreement, perhaps a public agreement with the United States, that the Americans will not force us to negotiate with the PLO and that they will not accept a Palestinian state?

[Arens] I definitely support this, and I think we have a chance of reaching such an agreement, as this to all intents only expresses the stated policy of the United States.

[Ronen] But can we reach agreement with the United States with it still calling for a meeting with Palestinians in Cairo or in some other location, while Israel is calling for elections in the territories—elections which still have to take place.

[Arens] Do I have to remind you that the United States adopted the Israeli peace initiative? The fourth clause in the peace initiative deals with elections in the territories, and therefore the goal of holding elections is a goal that the United States supports. Any disagreements we may have had were disagreements regarding the best way to achieve democratic and free elections in the territories.

[Ronen] And will you, as the minister in charge of the territories, push for speedy elections there?

[Arens] Certainly. I am even now taking action toward the holding of elections in the territories, within the framework of the meetings I conduct. I will not press for speedy elections in the territories, but rather try to calm tensions and restore quiet in the territories, which constitutes a prerequisite for the holding of free and democratic elections. A majority of the populace—at least those I have met—understand this; that at this period, at a time of murders and terror, it is very difficult to conduct free elections.

[Ronen] Sir, for my last question. When the new, current government was formed, it was no secret that you wished to retain the post of foreign minister and not return to the Defense Ministry. Do you now feel that you were mistaken?

[Arens] Maybe it was no secret to you, but this was not true. The Defense Ministry is a terrific and important place. It involves tremendous responsibility and is considered perhaps the most senior post in the cabinet, and I accepted the post eagerly and without hesitation.

[Shlonsky] Are you not sorry you had to give up the political aspect and had to discontinue your negotiations with the Americans?

[Arens] I was not forced to do anything. I agreed to this switch voluntarily, and I am not sorry I did it.

[Ronen] Thank you, Defense Minister Arens.

Arens Calls for New IDF Multiyear Work Plan

TA2507141690 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Jul 90 p 2

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens' order to give the multiyear work plan that the chief of staff wanted to present next week to the cabinet back to the IDF [Israel Defense Force] Planning Branch for more work has caused embarrassment in the General Staff. Arens said that this is an ambitious plan that cannot be used to make decisions, rather than a respectable work plan that can be broken down into projects and costs.

Two years ago, Yitzhaq Rabin returned the previous multiyear work plan to the IDF, claiming it was not based on realistic data. While still defense minister, Rabin had criticized the current plan. Nevertheless, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron decided to present it this week to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the cabinet. After discussion in the defense minister's bureau, however, Shomron was forced to inform the committee that the plan is still incomplete.

Arens ordered the chief of staff to present him in the coming days with a new plan which will detail projects in the works and their costs, so that he can decide which projects and procurements must be canceled due to budgetary constraints. Arens plans to appeal in the cabinet the decision to cut another 67 million shekels from his ministry's budget. In the meantime, however, the purchase of the antiaircraft Patriot missile batteries has been called off, and the building of new submarines is also in danger of being axed.

Arens said the surface-to-surface missiles in the possession of the Arabs are not a new threat. "We will have to manage until we procure the Arrow. The Americans agreed to fund the development of the second stage, too." The Arrow's first stage will be launched in the coming days in the presence of U.S. representatives of the Star Wars project.

Arens announced yesterday that Israel developed within the framework of the Arrow project a unique radar for detection, early warning, and fire control. He said sophisticated weapons are also reaching the Arabs, and the United States finds it difficult to maintain Israel's qualitative edge. "We will have to maintain our qualitative edge through our own development here in Israel," Arens said.

Levi Criticizes EC Policies on Mideast, Israel

TA2507180290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Levi says his talks this week with the foreign ministers from the EC were held in a good spirit, but, at the same time Levi sharply criticized the EC's policies in the Middle East in general, and its attitude toward Israel in particular. Levi was making his first appearance before the Knesset as foreign minister. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

Foreign Minister David Levi told the Knesset today it is no small achievement that despite the differences with Europe, the talks this week did take place, and the two sides were able to discuss the points on which they disagree. In fact, he said, they reached agreement on a number of issues, although he did not elaborate. But then the foreign minister let loose. Because we are a democratic country, said Levi, the Europeans seem to think we cannot argue our point of view, and they threaten to impose sanctions. We are called extremists for asking for a dialogue with our neighbors, said Levi, a reference to the Israeli Government's contention that the state of war with the Arab world is the major problem in the region, greater even the Palestinian issue. With all our desire for peace, the foreign minister went on, we also want to live. We live in a jungle where there is a desire to destroy our state.

Levi claimed that three of the four parts of the Israeli peace initiative are forgotten, and only the proposal for elections in the territories is remembered, and even that they want to make additions to.

The foreign minister spoke following four motions for the agenda on this week's talks with the foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg. [passage omitted]

Rabin Says Iraq Moves in Jordan 'Casus Belli'

TA2507123990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin says it is clear to everybody, including the Iraqis, that moving Iraqi forces into Jordanian territory is casus belli, namely, a cause for war. Mr. Rabin said that if Saddam Husayn embarks on a military adventure against us he will be dealt a harsh blow. The former defense minister rejected claims to the effect that discipline and alertness in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have deteriorated; the IDF is well prepared to meet any eventuality, according to Rabin.

IDF Rejects U.S. Human Rights Report Findings

TA2507175390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] A U.S. human rights organization has leveled harsh criticism at IDF [Israel Defense Force] policy in the territories, particularly the engagement rules in Judaea and Samaria. The organization, called the Human Rights Observers, today published a report in Jerusalem and Washington saying that the IDF's policy in the territories violates international standards.

The IDF spokesman said in reaction that the Supreme Court had determined that the instructions on the use of firearms in the territories are legal and reasonable. The spokesman noted that, even in times of distress, Israel is as concerned about human rights as its detractors.

IDF, SLA Shell 'Terrorist Targets' in Lebanon

TA2607072290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Force] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery shelled terrorist targets north of the security zone for six hours last night. This was reported by UN headquarters to our correspondent Hayim Hecht. A UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman further said that, contrary to press agency reports, there was no irregular movement of IDF units out of the security zone.

Qatzav Suspends El Al Flights to Stockholm

TA2507124490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav has decided to immediately suspend El Al flights between Israel and Sweden after Sweden decided to change security arrangements in Stockholm, which have been in force since the airline began flights there.

First IAI Remote-Piloted Helicopter Takes Off

TA2307100690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Jul 90 p 20

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Last weekend saw the takeoff of the first remote-piloted helicopter developed in an Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] plant. The plant is located in Jerusalem.

The remote-piloted helicopter was developed jointly with Elbit [computer-based systems developing and manufacturing company] for the Navy, which wishes to place the helicopter aboard its Saar 4.5 missile boat. It is designed to carry out observation and reconnaissance missions beyond the horizon and will be incorporated in the Baraq naval missile systems which will be placed aboard the new missile boats the Navy is expected to receive.

As the Navy has no development budget, the defense industries agreed to develop the helicopter at their own expense, on the assumption that the Navy will purchase it before the end of the development stage.

Further Details on Flight

TA2407145090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The Air Force has unveiled a remote-piloted helicopter made by Israel Aircraft Industries. The helicopter, called Helstar, held its first trial flight six days ago; it hovered for about 180 seconds, reaching an altitude of some two meters.

Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that the helicopter is planned for use by the Navy on its Saar 4 and Saar 5 missile boats. It will replace the France-made Dolphin, and will be capable of staying airborne for up to six hours. The estimated cost will be some $4 million per helicopter, compared with some $30 million for the Dolphin helicopter.

Last Delay to VOA 'Arava Construction Removed

TA2407125390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The National Planning and Building Council has approved the construction of the VOA station in the 'Arava, leaving no official delays for construction work to begin. Our correspondent reports that the decision was made by a majority of 19 to 6. Those opposed were representatives of the Nature Reserve Authority and the Technion.

Representatives of the 'Arava residents told the Council that they intend to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

The Council's decision is still pending government approval, but since the government has already decided to advance the project, there is no doubt that it will reconfirm the decision.

Bani-Hasan Tribes Support King, Democracy

JN2607073190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Al-Mafraq (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn Wednesday visited al-Mafraq and met with bedouin tribes of the Bani-Hasan clan gathered at Rihab town in the governorate. The tribes' leaders renewed their allegiance to the King.

Speakers representing various tribal branches units expressed their readiness to fight for the Kingdom in the service of the Hashemite family.

King Husayn thanked the tribes and said he took deep pride in belonging to the Jordanian family.

He said he was delighted to see "members of this family firmly united and determined to contribute to the development of the Kingdom."

"The challenges which Jordan faces today," he said, "can by no means deter the Jordanian people from further cohesion and constant work to build a strong shield defending the whole Arab Nation. We are determined to confront and overcome the challenges and to defend the homeland." the King added.

At the outset of the meeting, the King heard addresses by tribal leaders and poets voicing their people's solid backing for the King's leadership and their continued efforts to support national efforts to regain the usurped lands in Palestine and to support the Palestinian people's uprising.

They also expressed total support for the democratisation process in Jordan and said that everybody was committed to shoulder responsibility in safeguarding higher national interests.

King Husayn received a message from the Bani Hasan's youth pledging continued allegiance to the Throne and commitment to the Great Arab Revolt.

The Bani-Hasan tribes presented the King with a number of Arabian horses and the King later lunched with the heads of the tribes.

King Husayn was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and several other officials.

Debate on Emigres Deferred Pending Report

JN2607073790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26-27 Jul 90 p 1

[By 'Abdallah Hasanat, staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday convened to discuss Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine, but the session was cut short, pending a government report on the issue.

The session began on a tense note, when Democratic Bloc Deputy Fakhri Qa'war (Amman) and five of his colleagues moved a motion demanding that the House cable the Egyptian government to "muzzle the hostile pens" of Egyptian journalists who recently attacked Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian people.

Ka'war's motion was killed in a matter of minutes, when many deputies objected on the basis that they did not want to "involve" themselves in an issue they "knew very little about."

Deputy 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi (Madaba) protested that he did not see the press articles in question and said: "We condemn them all: Mansur, Taha Husayn and Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir." The Muslim Brotherhood deputy was referring to Egyptian columnist Anis Mansur, who is leading the campaign by some Egyptian journalists against the PLO and Arabism in general; Taha Husayn, the late Egyptian literary writer, whom Qa'war cited as a true Arab nationalist; and late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, the leader of the Arab nationalism in the 1950s and 60s.

Deputy 'Isa al-Rimuni suggested that Jordanian journalists challenge the Egyptian and said he trusted that the Egyptian government and parliament will deal with the issue. [sentence as published]

A row erupted between Brotherhood Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant (Amman) and National Bloc Deputy al-Rimuni. Abu-Zant had charged that the House and government had always failed to take "historic decisions" whenever a matter of significance was debated in the House.

"This has become like a soccer match," Abu-Zant said. "The government either scores, or withdraw." At that moment someone in the gallery, a bearded young man, clapped.

Deputy al-Rimuni then took the floor and blasted the Islamist deputy. "I am not defending the government," he said. "But those (the ministers) are our brothers and cousins, we cannot blame everything on them." Al-Rimuni continued that if it was a matter of gaining publicity and clapping, "next time I'll bring my people from Raymun and Jerash to clap for me."

Brotherhood Deputy Humam Sa'id (Amman) also demanded that the government present a policy statement on the immigration issue before deputies debate it. Deputies Fawzi Tu'aymah (al-Fuhays, Democratic bloc), Muhammad al-Mu'ar'ar (North Bedouin, National bloc) and Ahmad al-Kuwfahi (Muslim Brothers, Irbid) seconded the motion.

Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim then promised to give the House a full account of the government's actions so far on the issue.

At the outset of the session Independent Islamist Deputy Jamal al- Sarayirah, (al-Karak) briefed the House on a visit he made as part of an Arab parliamentary delegation to Moscow.

Al-Sarayirah said he believed the Soviet Union had no strong interest any more in the Middle East but that Soviet officials remained sympathetic to Arab concerns.

Al-Sarayirah proposed that Jordan prepare for war, seek to revive the Eastern Front, reconcile Iraq and Syria and urge Egypt to abandon the Camp David accords.

Paper Warns Against U.S. 'Adventure' in Gulf

JN2507112090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
25 Jul 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Refreshing the U.S. Memory"]

[Text] The Arab efforts, at the highest level, press ahead to contain the dispute between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti brothers. Meanwhile the U.S. Defense Department confronts this dispute with a series of movements and statements as though differences within the Arab family can only be contained by U.S. muscle flexing and waving the heavy stick.

It seems that Washington has not learned how to read the past or the future. It still imagines that any part of the world is part of the U.S. empire and that nations can only bow their heads to the warships of this empire and, overcome by fear, will surrender to its naval, ground, and air military might. The danger of such an imagination, which is based on ignorance of past lessons and future horizons, is that it opens the door for real catastrophes based on the U.S. illusion that the Arabs are two parties, that the Arab homeland is an open arena for all covetous people, and that this nation is unable to defend itself or confront its enemies. In fact, a more serious illusion now dominating a large number of political circles hostile to this nation is based on calculations that their conflicts are with Arab leaders and regimes and not with the peoples. It suffices to note that millions of Arabs did not expect the United States to show such hostility, conspiracies, and hatred as it is currently showing. Therefore, any attempt to ignite the situation would in fact be a call for a long war. The U.S. politicians realize that their great nation has not, up to now, scored a single victory over any people who resisted them or engaged in a war to defend themselves against their aggression.

Washington must realize that the current dispute between brothers in the one Arab family is transient and will be resolved through accord among the whole family. Therefore, the interference by the U.S. Defense Department in particular into this conflict is a challenge to Arab dignity, pan-Arab pride, and Arab concern to maintain the Arab homeland for its people and its resources for its present and future generations. If the United States thinks that Arab circumstances are ripe for a strike at our pan-Arab awakening, we would like to assert that these circumstances are also ripe for the emergence of a new Vietnam or a new Beirut where the Arab will, supported by the nation's millions, will triumph. We hope that this adventure will be carefully calculated. No Arab would extend love to the United States as long as it harbors hatred for us nor would he allow its warships to dictate our fate. The U.S. memory must always be refreshed.

Drilling for Oil To Begin in 'Ajlun Region

JN2507152690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1420 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Amman, 25 Jul (PETRA)—Engineer Kamal Juraysat, director general of the Natural Resources Authority, said that in the near future the authority will start drilling a deep exploratory well to prospect for oil in the 'Ajlun region. The decision to drill was made on the basis of geological and technical information that recently became available to the Authority.

He said that, based on the results of drilling this well, the Authority will set a detailed program to study the region of the [Jordanian] northern heights to investigate the possibilities of finding oil and gas there.

169 Dismissed Government Employees Reinstated

JN2507064890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
25 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—In line with the prime minister's directives to reinstate government employees who had been dismissed from their jobs for political reasons, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has reinstated 169 people, according to CSC officials. The officials said that 25 out of these people had refused to go back to their jobs. The officials added that a special committee headed by assistant director-general of the Budget Department and grouping two senior officials from the CSC was studying the cases of those dismissed for political reasons and are preparing recommendations to reinstate them. The officials pointed out that lists of the names of people to be reinstated will be issued by the CSC.

Hostages in Lebanon Reported 'Still Alive'

LD2507193290 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1850 GMT 25 Jul 90

[By Martin White, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] The Syrian Government has "indications" all Western hostages kidnapped in Lebanon are still alive, shadow foreign secretary Gerald Kaufman said today. Although they were unable to provide him with clear evidence, he believed no news was good news.

Mr. Kaufman was speaking at Heathrow Airport on returning from three days in Damascus where he met top Syrian leaders.

He had asked about the fate of British hostages, Terry Waite, John McCarthy, Brian Keenan, and Jackie Mann. "Syria had many sources of information and none have even leaked the suggestion of the death of any hostage," he said. "Had a hostage died, it would be hard to keep it secret for long and this indicated that they were all still alive," said Mr Kaufman.

On the question of Brian Keenan's expected release last month, he said the Syrians confirmed they had indications of such a move but these had now "dried up". Mr. Kaufman said the Syrian Vice-President ‘Abd-al-Halim Khaddam provided the most significant information during his talks. Although some of this remained confidential and would be reported to the Foreign Office, Syria had no information which indicated that any of the hostages was dead.

Cabinet Decides To Send Army to Iqlim Al-Tuffah

NC2507125290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1125 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Statement issued by the Council of Ministers following its meeting in Beirut on 25 July—read by Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq]

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting today under the chairmanship of President al-Hirawi, which was attended by Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers. The Council of Ministers began by approving the agenda and then debated public issues. President al-Hirawi noted the grievous loss suffered by the world of arts and letters with the death of Dr. Hasan Sa‘b and by the world of poetry and literature with the death of ‘Umar Abu-Rishah.

President al-Hirawi then briefed the Cabinet on current events, including the latest developments in the Gulf. President al-Hirawi and the Cabinet expressed the hope that all Arab differences will be solved within the Arab League and in a positive and brotherly atmosphere.

The Cabinet also followed up on the developments concerning its own initiative and the exchanges that have taken place since that conciliatory initiative was launched in order to encourage positive sharing of responsibility. The Cabinet lauded the efforts exerted by Lakhdar Ibrahimi, representative of the Arab Tripartite Committee, in this respect.

The Cabinet also decided to send a delegation to the Islamic Conference Organization conference that will be held in Cairo later this month. Dr. Salim al-Huss, prime minister and foreign minister, will lead the delegation to that conference.

The Cabinet discussed at length the grave situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, which has resulted in severe losses of life and damage to property. In view of the collective responsibility of the Lebanese (?authority) for all areas, the Cabinet has decided the following:

First, to call on all combatants to stop fighting immediately and withdraw completely from Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Second, to dispatch the legitimate Army troops responsible for security to the region.

Third, to arrange for the return of the displaced inhabitants to their villages and guarantee their safety.

The Cabinet considers any reluctance to cooperate with this decision—namely, the decision to stop the fighting, withdraw the militias, and hand over security tasks to the Army troops—as irrefutable evidence of involvement in the plots of partition and fragmentation. The Cabinet declares its resolve to resort to all available means to end the current deterioration and bloodshed in the area and spare the country the serious repercussions of that situation.

Amal Supports Cabinet Decision

NC2507141890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The Amal Movement's command in the south has declared its commitment to the Cabinet's resolutions on Iqlim al-Tuffah. In a statement issued this afternoon, the movement's command expressed its readiness to implement the decisions immediately and facilitate the work of the internal security forces, as well as the legitimate Lebanese regular forces to restore security and stability to the region.

Hizballah Indicates Support

NC2607055990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] A Hizballah media source in the south has said: We are ready to back the national Lebanese Army and its assumption of the task of liberating the land from the Zionist occupation forces and their agents. We support the dispatch of the Army to assume responsibility for security throughout the south in order to protect people's security and interests and ensure their freedom and to support the resistance.

Ibrahimi-'Awn Talks Fail To Achieve Results

NC2607052690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The fourth meeting between Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi and General Michel 'Awn did not achieve the desired results. 'Awn's reply was more a rejection than an acceptance, as he is still insisting on amending the al-Ta'if accord, an accord that is rejected at the local, Arab, and international levels. Ibrahimi will report to the Arab tripartite committee on the results of his contacts and then decide his next move. He is expected to visit Beirut again.

The fourth meeting between Ibrahimi and 'Awn began at 2100 yesterday and ended at 2300. The Arab envoy's only comment was: Sorry to keep you waiting so long. I have nothing to tell you.

Immediately afterward, Ibrahimi met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. President al-Hirawi, Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss are expected to meet today to assess the situation. Ibrahimi, who is due to leave for Jeddah today to brief the Arab committee on the results of his talks in Beirut, may attend the meeting.

Ministerial sources said that the government was prepared for all eventualities, regardless of whether 'Awn's reply was positive or negative. [passage omitted]

UN Reinforces South Following Israeli 'Threat'

NC2607094890 Paris AFP in English 0636 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, July 26 (AFP)—United Nations peacekeepers have sent reinforcements to southern Lebanon after a threat by Israeli forces to fire on members of a Norwegian contingent there, U.N. sources said. They said a 40-man rapid intervention unit of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) arrived Wednesday to back up 22 Norwegian troops in Kawkaba village inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon.

The U.N. deployment came a day after an Israeli officer threatened to fire on the Norwegian peacekeeping troops if they continued to prevent construction of a road linking Israeli army positions in the area. A Norwegian officer said UNIFIL had "the right to defend itself if shot at" and called for the dispute to be rapidly settled to defuse tension.

UNIFIL has refused to authorize the five-kilometer (three mile) road between Kawkaba and Hasbayya, which would cut through the Norwegian position. On Monday, a Norwegian soldier was injured when an Israeli tractor forced through a UNIFIL roadblock at Kawkaba set up to keep back an engineering unit charged with building the road.

The Norwegian officer, who requested anonymity, said UNIFIL had notified Israel it would not authorize the construction, and that "diplomatic contacts" had been opened on the issue with Israel at U.N. headquarters in New York. He warned that the situation was explosive. "The soldiers on both sides are young men between 18 and 20 facing each other with their fingers on the trigger. What will happen if one of them opens fire?"

The 900-troop Norwegian contingent is the sole UNIFIL unit deployed in the same area of the security zone as Israeli troops, and the two sides have clashed on numerous occasions in recent years.

In Beirut, an official source said Lebanon had asked its U.N. representative to file a complaint against Israel over the Kawkaba incident with the U.N. Security Council.

Hizballah Says Amal Obstructs Red Cross Efforts

NC2607074890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The Hizballah media unit has issued the following statement: Despite our contacts with the Red Cross and our readiness to facilitate its mission to remove the corpses of the Amal Movement's fighters and mercenaries from Jarju', the Amal leadership is determined to obstruct this process. The Movement is well aware that the corpses are already starting to decompose.

Amal's stand shows how little regard its leadership has for the fate of its fighters and humantarian values.

To prevent this leadership from misleading the families of the dead by saying that their sons are missing or being held prisoner by the resistance, we hold the Movement responsible for the fact that the bodies are starting to decompose. We assert that we are only holding the number of prisoners which was published in the papers.

Anti-Fatah Leaflets Distributed in Sidon Camps

NC2607075390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] AFP has reported that leaflets attacking the pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement were circulated in the Palestinian camps in Sidon yesterday.

The leaflets, which are signed by the Muslim young men of the camps, poses these questions: Is the PLO leadership really seeking to turn its members into sandbags protecting the northern borders of the Zionist state? Does this leadership want to represent a new Israeli line of defense?

Iqlim Al-Tuffah War Said Between Syria, Iran

NC2607110790 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Jul 90 p 2

[Article by Sarkis Na'um: "The Iqlim al-Tuffah War Is Between Syria and Iran"]

[Text] Sources close to Damascus have asserted that the fighting which has been going on between Hizballah and the Amal Movement in Iqlim al-Tuffah for over a week is actually an undeclared war between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria. They base their assertion on a number of facts, foremost among which are:

1. The failure of an indirect agreement between the Islamic Republic and the United States, which was prepared by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' several months ago. That agreement included a provision whereby Iran would exert heavy pressure on its allies among the fundamentalist Muslim groups in Lebanon to release the U.S. hostages they hold. In return, the United States would release the Iranian assets it had frozen in its banks after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the overthrow of Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

According to the sources, Iranian circles attribute this failure to one, or both, of two factors. The first is Damascus' connivance with Washington. The connivance has seriously embarrassed Tehran in view of the series of crises it is currently facing as a result of the power struggle between moderates, represented by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and extremists, represented by Shaykh Mohammad Ahmad [as published] Mohtashami.

The second factor is Damascus' falling into the U.S. trap and its ignorance of the fact that U.S policy toward the Iranian Islamic revolution, and consequently toward its established institutions, has not changed. In both cases, Syria bears a huge responsibility for which it must pay the price.

2. The Islamic Republic's fears of the emerging trend toward rapprochement in the Arab world. These fears are justified, because Iran is well aware that the Arabs are against it and will never side with it for a thousand and one reasons. Its fears are also justified because Iran realizes that this trend will cost it its Arab ally, Syria, on whose support it depended during its war with Iraq and the Arabs to prevent the impression that the then ongoing war was not between Arabs and Persians. Iran's fears surfaced a long time ago, when Jordan launched a number of initiatives to reconcile Syria and Iraq and when Jordanian King Husayn managed to arrange a summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn. However, the failure of the Jordanian efforts lulled but did not eliminate Iran's fears.

Iran's fears were strengthened and its suspicions about a possible Syrian reconciliation with its Arab rivals were confirmed by the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian ties, which had been severed since late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat visited Jerusalem. Its fears were realized when the presidents of Egypt and Syria exchanged visits, with the press in both countries highlighting the importance of these visits. This prompted Tehran to make its concern public by describing al-Asad's visit to Egypt as a meeting between yesterday's enemies and today's friends.

Although Syria did not take this lying down, its dismay over the Iranian stand took the form of correspondence which asked: Why did Iraqi and Iranian Foreign Ministers Tariq 'Aziz and 'Ali Akbar Velayati meet in Geneva and not in Tehran or Baghdad?

3. The Islamic fundamentalist movements in Lebanon and consequently Iran, their patron and supporter, have become convinced that an initial relaxation in Lebanon will be made at their expense. This will encourage all parties to make a subsequent solution, when the time for it comes, also at their expense, thus gradually eliminating their presence in Lebanon and any influence they may have in it and the region. They became convinced of this after receiving information about a failed Syrian attempt to convince those concerned with Lebanon, inside and outside the country, to bring the fundamentalists into the Lebanese political game either in the government or in opposition. They do not attribute the failure of this attempt only to the refusal of those concerned to include the fundamentalists but also to Syria's lack of enthusiasm for its own attempt as manifested by its refusal to exert the necessary pressure to bring this about. This lax Syrian stand, if it can be so called, was made clear when the Lebanese legitimate government lowered its ambitions from a plan for Greater Beirut to one for administrative Beirut and by its insistence that Greater Beirut will be established at a later date when all obstacles, the most important of which are the fundamentalist movements, are overcome.

This Iranian-fundamentalist analysis of the Syrian stand prompted them to escalate the war in Iqlim al-Tuffah where Syria has no direct presence and where its allies cannot stand alone and consequently cannot win. The aim of the war is to seize control of the Iqlim and possibly the areas north of it up to the sea, thus making the voice of Iran and its allies heard both in Lebanon (dealing a blow to the al-Ta'if accord and aborting the efforts to implement it) and in the region (Iran's entry into the Middle East formula against Israel).

They reached their decision to wage the war because of their confidence in final victory as the architects (of the decision) believe that the balance of power has shifted in their favor. They also believe that their main presence, if they can preserve it, will be in the south and not in the Southern Suburb or in other specific areas of the capital which have become to be known as administrative Beirut. This conviction was behind their withdrawal of a large number of their fighters, ammunition, and weapons from Beirut, the Suburb, and al-Biqa' to the south.

Will the Iranian-fundamentalist calculations win at the expense of the south? Why has the PLO intervened?

Fighting Continues; Israel Reinforces Positions

Israeli Vehicles Fortify South

NC2507123290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border strip, the Israeli occupation troops brought 20 vehicles into the region at dawn today. Half of the vehicles are Merkava tanks, while the remainder consists of armored vehicles on which 75-mm guns have been mounted. The reports add that the reinforcements entered through Metulla and (Sahl al-Dardarah) and were deployed in Ibil al-Saqiy. A similar force entered the region last night and took up positions along the Kafr Huna-Jazzin combat line.

Shelling Escalates

NC2507170290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon GMT 90

[Text] Artillery exchanges on the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines intensified in the afternoon. An Amal military source announced that Sarba, Humin al-Fawqa, Jarju', 'Arab Salim, Kafr Hatta, and 'Arab al-Jall were shelled with mortars and rocket launchers at 1630 today. A Hizballah source said that Jarju' came under a heavy artillery attack at the rate of 50 shells a minute.

While there had been reports during the past few days about Israeli artillery shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, a new kind of Israeli intervention was reported today. An Israeli force consisting of 30 military vehicles, including Merkava tanks and troop carriers, has deployed near the Kafr Huna township which overlooks Iqlim al-Tuffah. REUTER, reporting this development, said the Israeli unit brought in heavy artillery guns.

AFP reported that the occupation forces have moved within 5 km from the Palestinian disengagment force. The agency said that the Israeli force consists of 15 tanks and 100 troops armed with 155-mm and 175-mm guns. It added that another Israeli force deployed in western al-Biqa'. AFP cited reports in al-'Urqub area as saying that the Israeli occupation forces stationed three artillery batteries in the occupied border zone. Reports from the border zone also said that the occupation forces and their agent militia have been put on high alert.

Our correspondent reported a short time ago that all the villages in western al-Biqa' are coming under intensive artillery bombardment by the Israeli forces and the Lahd militia at the rate of 10 shells a minute. The resistance is responding by shelling Marj 'Uyun and Jazzin.

Israeli Planes Overfly Beirut

NC2607090690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0850 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes continued to fly sorties in the south and broke the sound barrier over the capital at 1140.

70 Casualties in Shtawrah Accident

NC2607093690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] A tragic accident has taken place in Shtawrah. Our correspondent reports that an oil tanker hit the wall of the Qasuf Hotel as it was crossing Shtawarah Square at 1900 yesterday. The tanker overturned in the middle of the road, exploded, and burned quickly causing several fires.

Approximately 70 people were killed or wounded by the fire, which also caused heavy material damages. The hotel and a number of nearby shops were burned.

Amal, Hizballah Exchange Fire

NC2607123890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] After a relative respite along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines this morning, the situation there suffered another setback. The two warring parties have been trading artillery shells since shortly after 1300 today. A Hizballah source has stated that Amal members triggered a flare-up when they started a violent artillery bombardment from their positions in Tuffahta at 1320. The village of Jba' and its vicinity also came under fire at a rate of three shells per minute.

For his part, an Amal military source in the south stated that some Hizballah members tried to infiltrate Amal's positions in Jurnaya at dawn today after preparing for this attempt by a violent and concentrated artillery bombardment. However, they ran into the movement's advance ambushes. Fighting involving various types of weapons ensued and Amal fighters managed to foil the attempt. An Amal member was martyred during the confrontation.

In an updated casualty count, REUTER reported that 135 people have died and 250 have been wounded in the fighting. The International Committee of the Red Cross continues its contacts to reach a cease-fire in order to evacuate the dead and wounded.

In another development, a general strike was observed throughout the south today in response to a call by the Jabal 'Amil 'Ulema Grouping.

Resistance Positions Shelled

NC2607092890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Islamic resistance men fired four 107-mm Katyusha rockets at 0100 today at the Israeli occupation positions near Marj 'Uyun. The Lahd militia immediately bombarded the Jabal al-Zahra for half an hour from their tanks positioned in Tallat Zaghlah.

Resistance sources said that yesterday's shelling of western al-Biqa' wounded 10 persons, including six children, and damaged 40 houses.

Al-Shar' Receives Shevardnadze Message on Talks

JN2507145590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Gennadiy Tarasov, the Soviet foreign minister's assistant and his special representative for Middle Eastern Affairs.

The Soviet envoy delivered a message to Faruq al-Shar' from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on exchanging ideas and on the importance of continuing dialogue with Syria in light of the important meeting that took place in Moscow recently between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Mikhail Gorbachev on the major issues in the region and the prominent role Syria plays in these issues.

During the meeting, they discussed the Arab-Israeli struggle and the probability of achieving a just and comprehensive settlement within the framework of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Soviet Envoy Praises 'Remarkable' Relations

JN2607082690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—Aleksandr Zotov, Soviet ambassador to Syria, has said that Syria occupies a remarkable place among the friends of the Soviet Union in the Middle East. He added that the CPSU strongly supports the promotion of Syrian-Soviet relations on the firm bases of the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed 10 years ago.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent today, he said that his country knows full well that its strength as a superpower lies not only in its internal capabilities but also in the strength and self-confidence of its friends.

Speaking of world politics, Zotov stressed that no one can guarantee his own security at the expense of the security of others, or defend his own interests in a manner detrimental to the interests of others. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Minister Arrives, Meets With Al-Asad

JN2507162390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1230 today Dr. George Sa'adah, Lebanese minister of post and telecommunications. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Talks centered on the situation in Lebanon and the efforts to implement the national reconciliation accord.

The president reaffirmed Syria's support for the Lebanese legitimate government and its efforts to implement the national reconciliation accord and Syria's commitment to all Lebanese in their attempts to achieve national reconciliation and end internal disputes.

Dr. Sa'adah made a statement to the SANA correspondent upon arrival in Damascus this morning. He said: The main goal of my visit to Syria is to mend what has been broken, based on our belief—and this is unchangeable as far as we are concerned—that any solution to Lebanon must pass through Syria; that is, if Syria is not the basis for this solution.

He adds: Proceeding from this, after the sufferings of the Lebanese people, we are seeking to rescue our country from its suffering. It is important, therefore, that I hold contacts with the Syrian brothers and friends. Everyone knows that relations between myself and Syria are not new; they have gone through various stages. However, even during passing crises, there never was a complete break in our relations with Syrian officials.

Dr. Sa'adah continued: Anyone taking a role in Lebanon must contribute to efforts to save Lebanon, because saving Lebanon means saving all the Lebanese and the Arabs. Anyone taking a role in Lebanon can proceed only from the basis we have mentioned.

Meets With Vice President

JN2507183090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Damascus, 25 Jul (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam this morning received Dr. George Sa'adah, Lebanese minister of posts and telecommunications and head of the Phalange Party. Also present were Mr. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Ibrahim Risha, member of the Phalange Party Political Office and personal adviser to Dr. Sa'adah.

Talks centered round the situation in Lebanon and means of implementing the national reconciliation charter.

Reviews Al-Asad Meeting, Departs

JN2507183390 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1800 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Mr. Sa'adah and his colleagues concluded their brief visit to Damascus at five o'clock this afternoon. Dr. Sa'adah and the members of his delegation were seen off by Mr. Nasir Qaddur of the Foreign Ministry and other officials.

Just before his departure, Dr. Sa'adah said: The impression we received during our contacts with our Syrian brothers is that Syria earnestly attempting to end the plight in Lebanon. Cooperation between us and Syria, he said, will be a fruitful one.

Referring to his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, Dr. Sa'adah said: This was not my first meeting with President al-Asad, and the more I see him, the more I admire him for his profound knowledge of all aspects of the Lebanese issue. President al-Asad, he added, is completely ready to assist the Lebanese people in their current plight.

U.S.-Israeli Alliance Based on Hostility to Arabs

JN2507200190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation. The continuing [U.S.-Israeli] contacts, the latest of which has been the Washington meeting between Zionist War Minister Moshe Arens and U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, the meeting between Zionist enemy Foreign Minister David Levi and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on 9 August, and other meetings, demonstrate the deeply rooted alliance between the Zionist entity and the United States. This alliance is based on hostility to the Arabs and to their national and pan-Arab causes.

Moshe Arens' visit to Washington, his talks with the U.S. defense secretary, and the resulting benefits to Israel—particularly the U.S. Administration's approval of development of the Arrow missile, which is 80 percent financed by Washington—have added a new dimension to the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance.

Over the past decades and in all previous administrations, the United States has given to Israel unstintingly on all levels—political, economic, military, and financial. Israel is the receipent of the greatest share of U.S. foreign aid. It receives $3 billion annually, in addition to military aid, contributions, and grants by the U.S. Jewish community. Israel receives sophisticated U.S. technology, particularly armaments.

Politically, the U.S. Administration stands by Israel, its aggressive expansionist policy, and its barbaric practices in the occupied Arab territories. This policy has been corroborated by Washington's use of its veto power in Israel's favor and its antipeace policies that violate human rights in the occupied territory and the region in general. Even before David Levi's visit to Washington and his planned talks with Secretary Baker, Israel is asking the U.S. Administration to give certain pledges and guarantees that transcend the ones former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger offered to Israel; namely, that Israel would not negotiate with the PLO before the latter recognizes Israel and renounces armed struggle. Levi intends to work for the exclusion of occupied Jerusalem's Palestinians from any future negotiations on the situation in the occupied territory. Levi will also try to get a written pledge from Washington against the establishment of a Palestinian state. This means that David Levi, who will meet with his U.S. counterpart James Baker on 9 August, is setting preconditions for this meeting and undermining the Baker plan, which is very close to the Israeli viewpoint.

That is how meetings between the Israeli and U.S. officials are conducted. Their aim is to strengthen the strategic alliance between the United States and the Zionist entity. All this is taking place at a time when the U.S. Administration claims it is working to implement what it calls the peace process in the region.

The question is: How can the peace process go forward when the U.S. Administration is extending various forms of military, political, and economic support to the Zionist entity? What kind of peace does the U.S. Administration want to promote? Undoubtedly, this peace is an Israeli peace, a peace based on power, aggression, expansion, the Israeli terrorism, and the displacement of our people from their homes and land in order to settle thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants who are arriving daily in occupied Palestine under the shadow of U.S. backing and assistance.

These and other developments present to the Arabs more challenges and dangers that threaten their present and future destiny. These developments require stengthening Arab unity and solidarity, forgetting differences, and confronting strongly and unitedly the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, which is aimed against Arab existence and the entire Arab nation.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Scholars, Clergy on Peace

LD2407215790 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Address by President Sayyed Muhammad Najibullah to religious scholars and clergymen; date and place not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; dear 'ulema, respected religious personalities and clergy of the homeland. I am pleased to have once again the opportunity of participating in the auspicious gathering of the religious scholars and clergy. [passage omitted]

With responsibility and with clear understanding of the concepts set out in verses of the Koran and correct hadithes [words and deeds of Mohammed], with the following meaning: The cause of the elimination of the nation in the past was diferences and hostility among them, who faced the anger of God, and misery descended on them. You initiated the policy of national reconciliation and laid down the cornerstone of peace and prosperity, which entails the pleasure of God and the creatures of God. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan took unprecedented steps for its implementation to welcome this benevolent, Islamic, and humanitarian proposal, which had been the desire of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. Since the declaration of a national reconciliation policy, tens of other proposals for ensuring peace have been introduced by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. The newest measures are removing the state of emergency, amending the new constitution, giving up the monpoly of power, forming a new government, two-thirds of its members being nonparty, the [word indistinct] of political parties, and the deepening of the democracy in the political life of the people.

All these actions have been taken to enable fighting to end, to put an end to bloodshed, and to remove differences in the light of Islamic orders and Afghan traditions. The consistency, realism and flexibility of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in the frame of the national reconciliation policy has enabled the government to keep the political initiative in its hand. Our proposals have been received with agreeable reaction of countries at world level, and in international forums, and now world public opinion stresses a political solution instead of a military solution. Our most comprehensive and realistic proposal was presented at the grand assembly of the month of Jawza (22 May-21 June) of this year, with its specific mechanism. In this mechanism the interests of all political parties and organizations and formations inside the country, and also the interests of pro-peaceful Afghan organizations and personalities abroad have been taken into account.

On the other hand, the capability of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan in its independent defense—which has been done with the help of God and the cooperation of the people of the country—the repulsing of extremists' offensives in various parts of the country, and the breaking of economic blockades of cities revealed to the world that our people and government have the power of independent defence, of safeguarding the existance of our country. No foreign power is capable of bringing about a peaceful solution to the normalization of the situation in Afghanistan without the will of the people and without direct participation of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan. I addressed a press conference two days ago on the mechanism of a political solution and our new proposals which we put to the assistant of the UN secretary general. I hope most of our friends and dear ulema have been informed about it. There is no need to repeat them.

Dear 'ulema, as we have said many times, we have devoted all our power to peace and reconciliation. It is the order of God which says peace is good.

[Passage indistinct] In such circumstances no obstacle can be seen in the way of peace and the cessation war in the country, and a large number of internal commanders have practically given up fighting and fratricide. Regretfully some of the extremists have mounted rocket attacks on the cities of the country, including the city of Kabul, as a last resort in their torture and massacre of the people, which has had no result but to expose themselves to the hatred of the people. [passage indistinct] The people of the country tolerate all that misery and wretchedness. They lose their children, but know that for the sake of the motherland they have to pass this hard epoch for safeguarding the independence and territorial integrity of the country, and the safeguarding of its honor, dignity, and the heritage of their forefathers. With full confidence in the brave people of Afghanistan I can say that God is with those who have patience.

There is full confidence that these difficult days will pass. Permanent peace will be restored under the blue sky of our country. Smiles will come to the lips of orphans, instead of tears to their eyes. But history will register one thing in the name of the Afghan nation, that is, that there has not been such a brave and patient nation as this. [passage omitted] [passage indistinct] There are those who work for alien countries, like mercenaries. The shame of history and the justice of the people will be registered on them. This is our belief and conviction. [words indistinct] we tell them: let us warm the home of brotherhood and love instead of murdering a Muslim brother and heating the furnace of war in the interest of aliens; rebuild our ruined country. [passage omitted]

Dear 'ulema, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan have taken many measures in the field of service to the holy religion of Islam on the advice of the respected 'ulema and clergy of the country. On your advice, changes have been introduced in the religious program of radio and television, and this process will develop. Today the words of God are taught through television. The interpretation of the Koran in Pashto and Dari has been reprinted and distributed. Women's religious schools have been founded and continue activities. The government is assigned to pay more attention to religious schools by introducing appropriate teaching changes. The Constitution has obliged us to serve and safeguard Islam, though the safeguarding of the Koran and Islam in line with His words is in His authority. In fact, He safeguards them. But there is a need for a means for every matter, and we are able to take steps for the introduciton of God's orders.

Once again I call on you 'ulema to give your useful advice, opinions, and proposals to the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, especially to me personally. I ask from God for all of you, success in the fulfilling of good service, and worship and the implementation of religious orders and principles, and wish from God, for His pleasure, sincere service to the Muslim people of my country. Success comes from God.

Prime Minister Meets Paktia, Khowst Elders 18 Jul

LD2007103290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0426 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 19 BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister met in the Gulkhana Palace with the elders of 12 ethnic groups residing in the Paktia and Paktika Provinces and the Khowst Grand District on July 18.

The press office of the Prime Ministry said that environmental problems of the people were discussed and necessary measures were adopted during the meeting.

Later, Khaliqyar while appreciating active participation of the people of the Paktia, Paktika and Khowst for the defence of the country and realisation of the national reconciliation policy demanded them to resort their further efforts for the cessation of war and national understanding among the people.

Najibullah Receives Foreign Union Delegates

LD1907200390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received this afternoon at the headquarters of the presidency the delegations of the international federation representation [as received] and similar unions of a number of the foreign countries who have come to Kabul in order to take part in the second national congress of Afghanistan's employees.

Esteemed Najibullah gave information to the delegation about the recent development in the country, holding the Loya Jirga amendments to the constitution, and changes in the policy, charter, and structure of the party.

The esteeemed president added that to establish a nationwide peace in the country and to end the useless imposed war, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has presented several proposals to the other side. Esteemed Najibullah added that in the light of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, political pluralism and a multi-structure economy was created in Afghanistan. The possibility of attracting foreign investment to Afghanistan has become more favorable.

In return the heads of the foreign countries' delegations expressed thanks in meeting esteemed Najibullah and expressed the solidarity of their organizations and the toilers of their countries with the toilers of Afghanistan and praised the efforts made by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan to ensure nationwide peace in Afghanistan.

During this meeting, Satar Pordeli, chairman of the Central Council of National Unions of Afghanistan' employees was also present.

Regime Forces' 'Mopping-Up Operations' Detailed

LD2107161990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Three Strella-2 type surface-to-air missiles have recently been purchased from the armed opposition groups in the surroundings of Nimroz Province by the organs of the Ministry of State Security. The purchase price of these rockets was paid to the other side in view of decree No. 204 dated 10 Oct 1987.

The units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed in Takhar Province have recently carried out mopping-up operations in the surroundings of of Yangi Qala District. According to the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] report, 22 extremists were crushed, 40 of them wounded, and dozens of their weapons, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and various weapons were destroyed. In the course of this mopping-up operation 66 armed men and 90 unarmed men, led by Abdol Qodus, Ashur Mohammad, Ali Muhammad, and 'Abdul Qayum, gave up resistance and the continuation of war and bloodshed, and proclaimed their intention to come over to the side of national reconciliation policy. After these groups, equipped with heavy and light weapons, came over to the side of the government, the security in 17 villages was restored and the local people resumed their peaceful life.

The personnel of state security in Nangarhar Province have seized a number of rocket launcher shells in carrying out ambush operations along the supply route of the extremists. According to the BIA report, during this ambush one of the ammunition guards attached to Rabbani extremist group was arrested.

A large weapons and ammunition depot belonging to the Rabbani extremist group has recently been set on fire and destroyed. The fire, began at 0800 and continued to 1500, and was caused by a mine planted by a rival group. As a result, dozens of heavy and light weapons, hundreds of surface-to-surface missiles, mortar mines, artillery shells, and various ammunition were set on fire. Several guards of this depot were either killed or injured.

Mujahidin Capture Regime Post, Arms in Laghman

BK2207122190 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 90 p 5

[Text] Laghman—A Kabul regime security post was captured and large quantity of arms were recovered when the mujahidin attacked a regime military post near village Khero Khel in Laghman province on the Kabul-Jalalabad Highway. Fifteen soldiers were also captured while five others were killed during the ambush.

According to details, the mujahidin of Khyber Front under the command of General Commander Ahmad Nasir Mansur attacked the security post, killed five soldiers and arrested 15 others. They also captured one tank, one howitzer, one mortar and a ZK-1, one Dashaka, two Peeca machineguns and six Kalashnikov rifles.

No loss of life was caused to the mujahidin, the report claimed.

India

ICO Chairman Warned on Hearing Kashmir Issue

BK2607093490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 26 (AFP)—India has warned that Pakistan's bid to raise the Kashmir issue at the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) meeting Monday will further hurt New Delhi's ties with Islamabad, a minister said Thursday. Federal Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan gave the warning to the current OIC chairman, Amir Sheikh Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait, during a visit to the Arab sheikhdom this week.

Mr. Khan said Thursday that if Islamabad discussed Moslem unrest in India's Kashmir state at the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cairo, which starts Monday, it would "vititiate the atmopshere" between the two neighbours.

Pakistan's move would damage the prospects for talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries due here next month.

Mr. Khan, who returned from Kuwait Wednesday, said he told Sheikh Jabir that the Indo-Pakistani talks might not serve any "meaningful purpose" if Kashmir was raised at the Cairo meet.

Mr. Khan, a Moslem, visited Kuwait as Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's special envoy. He also handed a letter from the premier to the OIC chairman, but did not reveal its contents.

Some 934 people have died this year in the Moslem campaign for independence in northern Kashmir state, India's only Moslem-majority province.

Mr. Khan did not say if Kashmir, which is disputed by India and Pakistan, would be placed on the OIC's agenda, but he said Sheikh Jabir supported a peaceful end to the separatism violence. Mr. Khan said he asked the Amir to counsel Pakistan not to go outside the 1972 Simla Accord, which calls for a peaceful settlement of all disputes. He said the pact, signed after the India-Pakistan war in 1971, included a provision that bilateral disputes should not be taken to international forums.

"If you see the actions of Pakistan, they have done everything which violated the letter and spirit of the accord," Mr. Khan told Sheikh Jabir.

New Delhi's warning came eight days after India and Pakistan ended foreign secretary talks without any agreement on Kashmir, the cause of two of three wars between the two countries. The Moslem uprising has also led to heightened tensions between India and Pakistan.

The foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan are to meet August 9 and 10 in New Delhi to resume their talks, which ended in Islamabad without reaching any agreement on troop deployments. India has accused Pakistan of arming Moslem militants in Kashmir. Islamabad denies the allegations, but says it supports the moslem demand for secession from India. Pakistan has accused India of massing 350,000 troops in the northern states of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab and said the deployment posed a serious threat to its security.

Afghanistan Supports Indian Stand on Kashmir

BK2507131690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Afghanistan has strongly condemned Pakistan's support to terrorist elements in Punjab and Kashmir. It has also reiterated its full support to India's stand on the Kashmir issue. The position of Kabul was made clear during the two-day talks between the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, and top Afghan leaders, including President Najib, in Kabul this week. Mr. Singh, who returned to New Delhi last night after his two-day stay in Kabul, also held extensive discussions on bilateral and international issues with the Afghan foreign minister, Mr. 'Abdul Wakil, and others.

Muslim Secessionists Attack Kashmir Radio Station

BK2607104990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, July 26 (AFP)—Moslem militants fighting for Kashmir's secession rocketed an Indian national radio centre here overnight, police said, as state government offices opened Thursday at the end of a three-day strike. Heavily armed militants fired rockets at the transmitting station of All India Radio in Srinagar's Narbal area and then sprayed gunfire from automatic weapons at security bunkers at the facility, a police officer said.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Kashmir Range) Mohammad Izharalam said the rockets missed the target, adding that no one was injured in the attack, the first on a radio facility. He gave no further details.

The attack was staged as Moslem militants armed with AK-47 assault rifles ambushed and traded gunfire with paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) soldiers at Harwan, a tourist resort on the outskirts of Srinagar. A civilian was killed in the crossfire during the gunbattle late Wednesday, which also left a militant and three BSF troopers wounded, police said. Security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search for the gunmen.

State government employees returned to work in the state's summer capital here Thursday after observing a three-day strike that crippled the administration, officials said. The strike had been called to protest alleged atrocities by security forces on civilians during anti-separatist operations in Kashmir, where violence linked to the secessionist drive has left 935 people dead so far this year.

Mujahidin Want Arrested Diplomat Handed Over

BK2507022090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1854 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 24 (AFP)—A faction of the Afghan mujahidin has asked India to hand over to it Kabul's former ambassador to South Yemen arrested here last month by Indian intelligence. The local chapter of Jamiyat-e-Eslami Monday [23 July] made the request so that Assadullah Sarwari could face trial for allegedly massacring Afghans after the 1979 Soviet invasion of that country. It said Mr. Sarwari must face "national or international trial" or continue to be imprisoned in India, adding that the ex-diplomat was trying to secure his release.

Mr. Sarwari was arrested June 22 on charges of staying in India without visa. Diplomats say New Delhi ordered the arrest to cement its ties with Kabul.

The Jamiyat said Mr. Sarwari, 44, as a former chief of Afghanistan's Khad secret police, ordered the massacre of thousands after Moscow propped up the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). A spokesman of the fundamentalist group said the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin, a smaller rebel group, has also requested India to hand over Mr. Sarwari to the mujahidin Afghan Interim Government based in Pakistan. The Jamyiat-e-Eslami is a member of the seven-party mujahidin alliance based in Peshawar.

Mr. Sarwari was branded a defector after he quietly left South Yemen just before the March 6 military coup led by former Afghan defence minister, General Shahnawaz Tanay, failed to topple President Najibullah's PDPA regime. Mr. Sarwari belonged to the hawkish Khalq faction of the PDPA, now called Watan or Homeland Party, which was widely blamed by Mr. Najibullah's moderate Parcham group of engineering the coup plot. Hundreds were arrested in post-coup sweeps, while many fled to India, Iran and Pakistan to escape capture.

It is unclear how and when Mr. Sarwari reached India, home to several thousand Afghan refugees, but diplomats said that New Delhi prevented him from joining Mr. Tanay who now lives in Pakistan. It is also not known if the ex-diplomat has asked for political asylum in India where last year Mr. Najibullah's cousin, a ranking Khad officer, publicly announced his defection to the resistance and was allowed to leave the country.

Suspects Arrested in Madras EPRLF Killings

BK2607052590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu police have nabbed five Sri Lankan militants suspected to be involved in the murder of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], secretary general, Mr. Padmanabha, and 14 others in Madras last month.

The state director general of police, Mr. P. Durai, said that the militants were arrested, when the Maruti van in which they were traveling was intercepted near Setubava Chatram in Tanjavur District yesterday afternoon. Police have recovered a foreign-made pistol, few rounds of ammunition, a wireless set, and some Indian currency from them.

Bangladeshi Delegation Meets Military Chiefs

BK2507122990 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The visiting Bangladeshi Armed Forces delegation met the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, in New Delhi today. The delegation led by Major General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan is on an eight-day visit to India to explore possibilities of buying arms. The delegation also met the three service chiefs. During its stay, the delegation will visit defense and public sector enterprises in the country.

Minister Rules Out Privatization of Electronic Media

BK2407093990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. P. Upendra, has made it clear that the proposed Prasar Bharati Corporation [Broadcasting Corporation of India] will be funded by the government and there is no scope for privatization. The Prasar Bharati bill only aims at freeing the electronic media from the shackles of the government, but it does not mean that the state should abdicate its responsibility and allow the media to fall into the clutches of the industrialists. The proposed corporation, he said, will remain fully answerable to parliament. The minister was addressing the joint session of station directors of All India Radio and Doordarshan in New Delhi today.

Punjab Governor Offers Amnesty to 'Terrorists'

BK2407160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr. Virendra Verma, has announced that the government is prepared to grant amnesty to terrorists and insure their rehabilitation provided they give up the path of violence. The governor was addressing an ex-servicemen sammelan [conference] and representatives of various political parties at Sangrur today.

13 Killed in Punjab 'Terrorist' Violence

BK2507075390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] In Punjab, thirteen persons, including a terrorist, have been killed in separate incidents since last night. In Amritsar District, one terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Majitha area. Elsewhere in the district, terrorists gunned down five persons, including four members of a family, in two separate incidents. In Bhatinda, terrorists killed four persons and injured 11 at a religious place last night. Three other persons were killed by terrorists in different parts of the state last night.

Defense Sector To Export Equipment, Weapons

BK2607052990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] India is to export defense weapons and equipment worth 135 crore rupees during the current year. Various public sector units in the defense sector have already reached an understanding with buyers abroad for almost the whole amount. Disclosing this at a meeting of the consultative committee attached to the defense ministry in New Delhi yesterday, the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, said the ordnance factories have, for the first time, secured an export order from Yugoslavia for gunbarrels worth 14 crore rupees. Last year's defense exports were to the tune of 80 crore rupees.

The consultative committee meeting was marred by a walkout by the Congress-I members, who protested against the absence of the prime minister, who also holds the defense portfolio. Dr. Raja Ramanna pointed that the prime minister, being on a visit of the USSR, could not attend the meeting. He said that some of the issues before the committee were vital as they concern the security of the country. The members were, however, not convinced.

Later, in statement, the Congress-I parliamentary secretary, Mr. Kamal Chaudhary, said his party members walked out of the committee meeting, as the government declined to postpone it in the absence of the prime minister.

The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, described the Congress-I walkout as premeditated. He pointed out that while the agenda for the meeting was defense production, the Congress-I demanded a discussion on fresh perception, which in itself is an exhausted subject.

Iran

Commentary Previews OPEC Session, Agenda

NC2607063790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0440 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. The 87th session of the OPEC petroleum ministers is to convene in Geneva today. Topics on its agenda include determining the organization's production ceilings and quotas for the second half of the current Christian year and, possibly, setting a new price for OPEC oil.

For the past six months—that is, since the 86th session—the oil market has witnessed considerable fluctuations. At the last meeting of the OPEC petroleum ministers, the organization's production ceiling for the first six months of 1990 was set at slightly more than 22 million barrels a day. This came in the wake of the relative calm that had prevailed in OPEC in 1989.

Unfortunately, with the arrival of the new year some members—specifically Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]—did not observe their official quotas. This increase in supply in conjunction with the decrease in demand due to the warmer weather upset the oil market and prices fell in several stages. The total drop was about 25 percent and OPEC member nations suffered considerable losses.

The drop in price to about $14 and the revealations of violations led to protests inside OPEC. In May this year, OPEC's market control committee met in the presence of all ministers and reduced production ceilings by 1.445 million barrels a day for a period of two months. OPEC production at that time was more than 24 million barrels a day.

Despite this decision, Kuwait and the UAE continued to increase their production and prices continued to drop. Many political efforts and talks were started to prevent a further drop in prices. Political pressures on the two violators in OPEC increased to such an extent that the two countries were compelled during the Jeddah conference to express their readiness to observe the quotas.

These efforts positively affected the oil market and prices increased by about $3 over the past few weeks. Of course, the recent emergence of the possibility of military conflict between Iraq and Kuwait also drove up oil prices. On the basis of the latest reports, the price of Dubayy crude is currently more than $17 a barrel.

The oil market is awaiting the decisions of the 87th OPEC session. According to Sadek Boussena, Algerian petroleum minister [title as heard] and OPEC chairman, OPEC will not make major changes in current oil production quotas at today's meeting. Of course 500,000 barrels are to be added to the quota of the UAE. This, ultimately, will increase OPEC production during the second half of 1990 to 22.5 million barrels a day.

With this extent of production—if quotas are fully observed—one can expect the necessary grounds for an increase in prices to be laid during the fourth quarter of the current year in view of the seasonal increase in demand. On the basis of this fact, the OPEC chairman has stated that during today's session the organization's main efforts will be focused on increasing oil prices to more than $18 a barrel.

Oil prices have been stable since 1986. The determination of an average price of $18 for a basket of OPEC crude was approved precisely after the great crisis of oil price drops in 1986. Since then the prices of industrial goods have risen, while the dollar has suffered a considerable decline in value. Thus, $18 today does not have the same purchasing power that $18 had in 1986. Therefore, oil prices should be adjusted to reflect economic fluctuations in the world.

On this basis, our petroleum minister announced an Iranian plan to increase prices by $2 a barrel and visited the UAE, Algeria, and Libya for this purpose. Iran's plan for increasing oil prices is logical but its implementation requires that favorable conditions be created in the oil market. This can only be achieved by a careful control of production.

The UAE, Libya, Algeria, and Iraq have announced their agreement with the price increase. Of course, Iraq has stated that it opposes any increase in quotas so that oil prices can rise to $25 a barrel. Our petroleum minister, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, told a news conference recently that the OPEC members want to set a price of $20 a barrel, but differ over when this price should be introduced. Some believe that this price should be set during the extraordinary OPEC session which will be take place in September or October. Others, including Iran, believe that this should be done during the current session.

At any rate, in view of the rise in oil prices over the past week, it would seem that if official quotas are precisely observed by OPEC members, the rise in oil prices will continue and OPEC will thus be able to achieve its objective of raising prices to above the $18 level.

Paper Comments on Syrian-Egyptian Relations

NC2207151290 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
15 Jul 90 p 8

[Political commentary entitled: "The Fraternal Gathering at Alexandria"]

[Excerpts] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has commenced his three-day official visit to Egypt and arrived at Alexandria port, where he was welcomed by his brother and counterpart Mubarak. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told MENA that when there is peace between two fraternal countries (Egypt and Syria) everything will fall into the right orbit?! However, diplomats resident in Syria have interpreted Faruq al-Shar''s remarks as pertaining to the future fraternal relations between Syria and Iraq and the meeting of the two heads of state at the upcoming Cairo session in November. [passage omitted]

What right orbits is the Syrian foreign minister talking about? The Egyptian regime is not even prepared to suspend diplomatic ties with the usurpist Jerusalem regime or to exert pressure on it so that it refrains from the repression of the combatant Palestinian Muslims. What will this solidarity yield with regard to the anti-Zionist struggle of the Muslims of the region?

THe Cairo regime does not have the ability to think even for a second without consulting the White House and Tel Aviv. How is it that it is hosting anti-Zionist Syria? [passage omitted]

The Cairo regime's political prestige has declined to such a low level among the revolutionary Muslims that it is considered more treacherous that the Occupied Jerusalem regime itself. Those who shake hands with these inauspicious leaders are in no position to explain and reason that such a union is the only way to struggle! Those sorrowful Palestinian mothers who have nurtured Palestinian youths in their bosoms do not hold out any hopes from the various capitals; they consider the intifadah their sole means of salvation.

The participants in the fraternal Alexandria gathering should provide the answers to many questions and will be forced to explain the connotations of the terms "struggle," "solidarity," "brotherhood," "unity," "uprising," "honor," and "revolution." These terms seem to have acquired different meanings for them which the revolutionary Muslims are unaware of.

Editorials, Commentary on Mina Tunnel Incident

Paper Wants 'Justice'

NC2107115490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES
in English 14 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Saudis Should Be Tried in International Courts"]

[Text] Head of Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said yesterday he would file a suit against the Saudi regime in an international court of law for quashing the death of over 1400 Hajj pilgrims earlier this month. The incident was a result of what the Saudi regime called "a crowded stampede" but gave contradictory and different reasons for it.

The call by Iran's head of judiciary should particularly appeal to his counterparts in Islamic countries to help bring the Saudi court to justice.

Member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference too, especially those whose nationals died in the Mina tunnel disaster, are indeed morally dutybound to back up the case.

Every year a number, usually exceeding hundreds, die during the Hajj season in Saudi Arabia. This creates anxiety.

To die while doing an act in the service of God is the greatest honor for Muslims. But those who lost their lives in Mina this month, like many others before them in previous years, have wasted their lives, as their deaths were mainly a result of the Saudi regime's incompetence, negligence or even deliberate move against the pilgrims.

In 1987, for instance the incompetent regime's "security fears" were deemed by the Saudi court sufficient proof to let loose their armed police on the demonstrating pilgrims. As a result over 400 Hajjis were martyred in the most sacred and secured of precincts of Islam.

Besides, this year's tunnel disaster and the 1987 massacre of the pilgrims many Hajjis have died each year in accidents like fires that indicate management lapses and incompetence of the so-called self-claimed custodian of the holy shrines, the Saudi Court. As a matter of fact then, a considerable number of Hajj pilgrims are dying in Islam's holiest land each year for different reasons, all explained away facilely by lame excuses.

Whether, or not these untoward accidents concern the security fears, or mismanagement and incompetence of the regime in Riyadh, the Islamic nations should put an end to them.

It is the duty of Muslim governments to do whatever is within their means to ensure the security and safety of their nationals who travel to Saudi Arabia to perform an act of worship. Their irrelevant killings, or deaths, for any reason the Saudi regime might offer, should be stopped and avoided.

To put an end to these tragic deaths and deplorable killings of the Hajjis, justice authorities in Islamic nations and the OIC member countries should accept the proposal by Iran's judiciary head and file a suit against the Saudis.

Saudis should be brought to account for their gross mismanagement of the most important politico-social act of worship in islam.

Mohtashemi Condemns Hajj Restrictions

NC2407155590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
8 Jul 90 p 20

[Political commentary by Tehran Majlis deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi: "Massacre in the Mina Tunnel? A New Plan for Restricting the Hajj"]

[Text] The world of Islam has again witnessed another bloody catastrophe near the house of God during the hajj ceremonies. This year, the regime ruling Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] had no excuse for [accusing] the Muslims of Iran, Kuwait, or Palestine, so that it could use them as propaganda to reap political capital against pure Islam. Before analyzing the incident, it would be appropriate to list points about the incidents:

A. The rulers of Hejaz initially attempted to minimize the number of those martyred at the Mina slaughterhouse; and it began its propaganda so that with the passage of time it can use political capital to attain its objectives. However, the death toll was so enormous the Saudi interior minister was forced to admit that more than 1,400 pilgrims to the house of God were killed in the Mina tunnel.

B. The Hejaz regime's mass media attributed the incident to the large number of the crowds, the power outage in the tunnel, the pilgrims' failure to follow the instructions of the police, and their stampeding in order to exit from the tunnel.

C. News reports have said that the incident happened when eight of the pilgrims fell from the top of the tunnel because of the overwhelming crowds, and the people began to run out of panic. In any case, according to the Saudi regime, the reasons for the incident were:

1) The overwhelming crowds;
2) power outage;
3) intense heat;
4) the pilgrims' ignoring the police's instructions.

As a result of all of these, King Fahd termed the incident a natural phenomenon, similar to the Iranian earthquake, created by the pilgrims themselves, because they ignored the police's instructions.

D. Contrary to the Saudi regime press and media reports, which the Western news agencies endorsed with much fanfare and prominence, Hizballah issued a statement reporting the instructions of the police in the Mina tunnel, which were accompanied by the use of tear gas and firearms against the pilgrims.

E. The stances of governments, nations, and individuals are noteworthy in this regard. The heads of the Western governments and the United States sent messages of sympathy to Fahd, while the Islamic Republic's officials said the incident is evidence of the Saudi officials' incompetence in administering the two Holy Mosques. Due to inadequate information and details about the incident, they did not announce their official stance. Muslim nations and personalities also attributed the incident to Saudi incompetence to administer and ensure the security of the two holy mosques.

All of this is based on the truth of the reports and statements and views of the Saudi regime and of the West, but the other side of the coin indicates a calcalculated conspiracy to those who are perceptive or who seek the political roots of the incident. This is because world arrogance and the system of world apostasy—which have intensively studied the potential strength of the world of Islam and because of the pivotal nature of the Palestinian issue and holy Jerusalem on the one hand and the

Hejaz and holy Mecca and al-Madinah on the other, and similarly the importance of the hajj rituals in the cohesion and unification of the Muslim nations—see their interests and existence being threatened. Therefore, by severing the hands of the empire of 'Uthman [third Caliph of Islam] from Palestine and Hejaz, they believed that the best way to establish their direct influence on the world of Islam would be to infiltrate Zionism into Palestine and Hejaz.

This is why the Saudi Government and the Wahhabis of Hejaz have used the hajj traditions in the past decade as the launching pad: to attain U.S. and Western objectives and policies, to cover the crimes and plots of the enemies of Islam among the Muslim nations, and to repress the revolutionary movements with the club of American-style Islam.

Under the leadership of his eminence the imam (blessings be upon him), the Islamic Revolution shattered political equilibriums around the world. It brought about radical changes in the hajj ceremonies and changed their circumstances in a manner that, despite its repression of the pilgrims through its lackeys during the past few years, the powers of arrogance have not been able to attain their objectives. It appears that the plan and program that the lackey Saudi regime has now been assigned to implement, as a surrogate of the West and the United States, is that the hajj ceremonies should be entirely suspended, or that they should be condensed or abbreviated so that they are controllable. Thus the world of Islam will not pose any threat to world arrogance and apsotasy. According to the formulators of the world-devouring United States, the paths to the attainment of these objectives are as follows:

First, politically, by jeopardizing the safety, comfort and welfare of the pilgrims, and to endanger even their personal security so that Muslims will be forced to forsake the hajj. Conspicuous examples of this policy are the massacre of 400 Muslim pilgrims to the house of God in the bloody Mecca incident in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], the tyrannical martyrdom of the 16 Kuwaiti Muslims last year, and the massacre of more than 1,400 Muslims on the baseless pretext of a power outage this year.

Second, rumors started by the Saudi rulers of Zionist origin about the restriction and lack of accommodation in the city of Mecca and the precincts of the holy mosque—murmurings that are baseless and geared to the policy of restricting the number of pilgrims in the hajj season. In the past decade we have seen nearly 2 million pilgrims in the house of God during the hajj season, and the holy mosque compound can easily accommodate 2 million pilgrims.

These are all part of the nexus of events, which can help to comprehend and identify the reasons for the massacre and slaughter of the defenseless pilgrims in the recent year and what happened in the Mina tunnel. Yes. The incident in the Mina tunnel is a precursor to the Saudi policy of restricting the quotas of the Islamic countries in the coming years and will be the subject of the agenda of the rigged-up session of the Islamic Conference Organization at which the servile heads of Islamic countries will put their signatures and seals of approval to the crimes of the Saudis and their pro-American policies in the course of a single session.

In order to perform the hajj obligation, the Muslim countries have no recourse but to extricate Mecca and al-Madinah from the American-Zionist domination of the Saudis. By severing the hands of the United States and the Saudis, they should delegate the control for the administration and security of the two holy mosques as well as Hejaz, to independent and combatant scholars of the world of Islam (not courtier-type clerics), just as the political independence of the Islamic world cannot be attained except by the liberation of Palestine and Holy Jerusalem, and the destruction of Israel at the hands of reovlutionary Muslims.

With hopes of the triumph of the oppressed over the oppressors.

Paper on Investigation

NC2507141490 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Jul 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "The Need for a Probe Into the Mina Catastrophe"]

[Excerpts] The holy sites have become unsafe and the guests to the House of God do not feel secure even within the holy precincts. They are trying to leave the land of the divine revelations as soon as possible and to reach safety.

The Saudis and their American mentors have created this bitter situation with their malice and have instilled fear in the hearts of the guests to the House of God. They have given the guests so much mistrust and insecurity that they are eager to terminate this spiritual journey as soon as possible so that they can be delivered from the talons of the Saudi savages and the evil of their lackeys, who are committing treachery in the name of service and have made the holy mosques unsafe.

The disillusionment of the pilgrims to the house of God and their efforts to leave there as soon as possible indicate that the Saudi executioners' justifications of the extensive Mina catastrophe are not true, and the matter is far more serious than what the Saudi officials are attempting to project with their false propaganda.

If the pilgrims had not been terrified by the actions of the Saudis and if the Hejaz [Saudi] regime had discharged its responsibilities appropriately, there would be no reason for the pilgrims to leave earlier than scheduled. [passage omitted]

At present, perceptive people and those knowledgeable about political and religious matters desire the establishment of an international Islamic inquiry committee and are constantly stressing that if the Saudi regime does not acknowledge its fault and has not intentionally committed this crime, why does it not agree to such a committee, and why did it hurriedly bury all the victims of the catastrophe to obliterate all evidence of its crimes?

In any case, the return of the pilgrims from the house of God clarifies everything, for they have divulged various details of the incident. This is a disaster for which the Saudis are the real culprits, and naturally the Saudi regime will avail itself of every opportunity for obstruction, or for delegating the issue to oblivion. Since it sees any investigation as harmful to itself, it will certainly not welcome any such inquiry, and with the passage of time, everything will gradually be forgotten.

However nations, governments, and especially the member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] should apply great pressure on the Saudis, so that it has to bow down to the logical pressure from the Islamic world and accept the proposal of a serious and expert probe into the disaster. It should permit a team of experts, comprised of doctors, lawyers, and prominent scholars to conduct laboratory and chemical toxin tests so that their investigations will be conducted in a wholesome atmosphere removed from all threat, intimidation, and avarice. They should put their results at the disposal of nations and governments, as well as the ICO members, so that these are placed before the people.

If this proposal is not seriously considered, the opportunity to implement it will pass. There is fear that the Saudis and their American mentors will be tempted to repeat another catastrophe in a different form.

Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Support for President

NC2507113590 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 25 (AFP)—The son of Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has urged Iranians to support President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, whose policies have come under fierce attack from anti-Western hardliners. Ahmad Khomeyni, in remarks carried by the ABRAR newspaper Wednesday, called on "all Iranians to support the economic policies" of Mr. Rafsanjani, adding that "those who deny the importance of economic well-being should be denounced."

"We must all strive to ensure that these policies succeed or the image of our sacred republic will be tarnished in the eyes of oppressed peoples," he added during a speech Tuesday [24 July] at his father's mausoleum south of the capital.

"The success of the economic projects do not mean sacrificing Islamic or revolutionary objectives," Mr. Khomeyni was quoted as saying.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who marks his first year in office Saturday [28 July], has come under fire from hardliners over his calls for Western assistance to rebuild an economy in tatters after Iran's eight-year war with Iraq. On Monday [23 July], he reaffirmed his commitment to a more open attitude towards the outside world, saying that "Islam never wanted its people to live in poverty" and that he would not be bound by "obscurantist and extremist slogans". He was apparently responding to a fierce attack last week by MP and former interior minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who charged that government supporters were hypocrites whose aim was to "weaken the policy defined by Imam Khomeyni".

ABRAR Assails Detracters of National Progress

LD2507121390 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 25 IRNA—The Persian daily 'ABRAR' said in its editorial Wednesday that arrogant propaganda machinery interpret economic plannings, creation of healthy ties with friendly countries or any step taken in the interest of the nation and the Islamic Republic as Iran's drifting away from its ideals. These attempts are made to halt achievement of the goals of the revolution and those of the late imam.

The daily said that by foiling Iran's strives [as received] for prosperity and progress, the world arrogance propaganda machinery aims to deceive the world public opinion that Iran's silence and stagnation is part and parcel of the Islamic revolution.

The paper quoted President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as saying that Islam did not want people to live in hardship and that those who believe that people tolerate poverty, ignorance and disease are wrong and added that the ignorant leftist slogans must be ignored.

"If any move which leads the country to progress is branded as betrayal of revolutionary ideals, then we must sit idle until our bones rot. Can we then be proud of such a society as an Islamic one and can other nations take Islamic Iran as their model?," asked the daily.

The determined nation of Iran in cooperation with the responsible officials will build a prosperous and dignified Iran in accordance with the guidelines set by the leadership so a proper pattern based on the holy Quran and Islamic teachings is presented to the world.

Interior Minister Stresses Need for Unity

LD2407123290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] At a nationwide gathering of commanders this morning, Mr. Nuri, the interior minister, elaborated on the religious and political character of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be admitted to paradise—calling on the entire officialdom of the country to continue its adherence to the path of that illustrious leader in their services to Islam and Muslims. He added that we should always keep the Imam in our thoughts, be grateful for the services rendered by the eminent leader, and follow the advice rendered by His Eminence the Imam—may his soul be sanctified.

Referring to the sensitive and significant role of the governors-general, comanders, and mayors, Mr. Nuri said to them: At the present juncture, in the wake of the imposed war and its numerous ensuing problems, we are in the reconstruction stage. The Majles, the government, and all officials have joined forces on the path. You, too, should employ all your resources to this end. He called on all commanders to stand firm in the face of all the problems they face in the course of their duties.

Reiterating the need for ever-increasing unity, Mr. Nuri referred to the various plots and ploys hitherto masterminded, as well as to those currently being carried out, which are aimed at undermining Muslim unity. He warned that the sympathizers of the Islamic revolution should never be split into different factions. He further called on the commanders to work toward the establishment of national unity and coordination among all strata of people, officials, and clerics.

In conclusion, the interior minister said that the three branches—executive, judicial, and legislative—will succeed only when they unite in support of one another.

Diplomats' Seminar Continues in Tehran 25 Jul

Karrubi Addresses Seminar

LD2507181690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassadors and charge d'affairs who have come to Tehran to take part in a seminar, met with the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

In that meeting, Mr. Karrubi stressed the importance of the foreign ministry officials' role in showing the revolution and conveying the message of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world and explained that conveying the stances of his eminence the imam, God's blessings be upon him, and explaining his ideology, which is the most important move toward the export of the revolution to the world, is an important and fundamental mission for the Iranian ambassadors and charge d'affairs and the Iranian embassies throughout the world.

Mr. Karrubi stressed that the speeches and the message of the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution are the most important guidelines for the future of the Foreign Affairs Ministry toward achieving the imam's goals.

Referring to the export of the revolution, the imam's guidelines that it is neither a war nor a military expedition, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: The export of the revolution is accomplished through our personal and public relations. If we want to export our revolution, then we should explain the imam's stands, his path, and his ideology to the world. Even though the imam is no longer among us, his sincere pupils who think exactly along the lines of the imam's ideology are among us.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Karrubi, referred to the extent of the hostile and poisonous propaganda by the imam's enemies against him and against the Islamic Revolution and added: It is worth paying attention to the poisonous propaganda because the imam is not only a person but he is a path and an ideology. Our most fundamental duty is to make clear the imam's stands against the satanic actions of the conspirators and make his path the guidelines of our work and actions.

Referring to developments in the east and what is happening throughout the world in relation to those developments, Mr. Karrubi added: With regards to the current international developments, as in the past, we choose the imam's stands and continue along the genuine path of the Islamic revolution.

At the end, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly once more stressed that Iranian representatives abroad should live and behave in such a way that they become exemplars of the Islamic Revolution in order to attract the attention of the world nations, and that is the best kind of action toward the export of the revolution.

Yazdi Praises Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2507190690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The head of judicial power, Mr. Yazdi, met today with the foreign minister and the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassadors and charge d'affaires for various foreign countries. He referred to the heavy responsibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassadors and envoys, and advised them to refrain from acting according to their tastes, and to abide by the policies set down by the Foreign Ministry.

The head of judicial power also stressed the need for political representatives to be informed about the developments inside the country and throughout the world.

He also said: The most important and valuable base of the Islamic revolution is the active support the Islamic revolution enjoys at the highest level. [as heard] He said: The honorable leader [Khamene'i] is so popular and enjoys such support among the majority of the people that one can confidently say: No leader throughout the world enjoys such level of support among his nation.

The head of the judicial power supported Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's actions toward improving the country's conditions, and said that he is a symbol of a strong and capable manager.

Before Mr. Yazdi's remarks, Mr. Velayati gave a report on the aims of the gathering of the political representatives.

Tehran Radio Reports Yazdi Comments

NC2607053890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Velayati accompanied by Iranian ambassadors and charge d'affaires stationed abroad met with Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch. During this meeting, Mr. Yazdi discussed the political and social significance of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, on the occasion of Muharram and described the Islamic revolution of Iran as one of the fruits of the movement begun by Imam Husayn, peace be upon him.

The head of the judiciary then pointed to the need for diplomatic representatives to pursue the policies set by the Foreign Ministry and emphasized on the need for diplomatic envoys to be fully aware of the country's affairs and to assess international issues. He said: Contrary to propaganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys full stability both at home and abroad. [passage omitted]

Paper Calls for 'Pious' Diplomats

LD2507135890 Tehran IRNA in English 1241 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI stressed in its editorial today that Iran's diplomatic corps must be chosen from among pious, intelligent and competent persons conversant with various aspects of the Islamic revolution, abreast of world developments, and indifferent toward allurements of the world.

The daily said if an ambassador was tempted by materialist world's attractions he would not be able to preserve his revolutionary morale "let alone accomplish the heavy duty of defending the Islamic revolution against the aggressions of its hostile enemies."

"If the Islamic Republic is to preserve its offensive policy towards ringleaders of infidelity and opression, as the leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i has said, implementation of such a policy would be possible only through revolutionary and competent forces who are nonchalant towards worldly pomps and seriously devoted to the principles of the Islamic revolution."

The foreign policy-makers of the Islamic Republic can implement such a policy provided that they care for bringing up competent manpower more than anything else, it concluded.

*RESALAT Report on 20 June Majles Session

90AS0172A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Jun 90 pp 5, 10

[Text]

At Yesterday's Public Majles Session: Islamic Republic of Iran Law Enforcement Forces Bill Receives Final Majles Approval

Legal and Majles Division:

Consideration was completed of the bill to consolidate the gendarmerie, the Komitehs, and the sheriff's offices and form the Law Enforcement Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this bill received final Majles approval.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, at yesterday's public Majles session the remaining articles of the bill to consolidate the gendarmerie, the komitehs, and the sheriff's offices and form the Law Enforcement Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were approved as follows:

Article 6: Within six months of the date of this bill's enactment, the Ministry of the Interior must submit for Majles approval a bill regulating hiring, wages, benefits, and promotions, and until that bill is approved, existing laws and regulations will apply.

Article 7: Conditions of Membership

(A) Belief and recognition of the fundamentals and commands of Islam and the government of the Islamic Republic and observance of Islamic ethics.

(B) Non-membership or affiliation with political parties, groups or organizations.

(C) Not cooperating effectively with the idolater regime or working to establish it.

(D) A clean record and a good reputation.

Article 8: The plan to organize and form this force will be prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and approved by the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

Article 9: The budget for the Law Enforcement Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be prepared each year by this force and after approval by the Ministry of the Interior through the Plan and Budget Organization, it will be sent to the Council of Ministers.

Article 10: As of the date of this law's enactment, all contradictory laws and regulations are overridden.

Article 11: The authority of the commander-in-chief of the armed forces is not limited to the provisions in this law.

It is worth mentioning that based on a proposal by a group of deputies and Majles approval, the name of this force was changed from Law Enforcement Guards to Law Enforcement Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Majles will meet in public session next Sunday.

Moragheh Deputy at Yesterday's Public Majles Session: The Basic Slogans of the Revolution Must Be Put into Practice, and the People Must Be Involved in the Management of All Affairs with Government Supervision

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Nader Taheri, Moragheh deputy. He discussed the fall of communism in the world. He said:

With the waning of communism, the fall of the promised communist paradise and the contrition of the East Bloc after 10 years of massive government, atheism and unbelief, the world seems to be moving to a monopolar orientation. This monopolarity constitutes an understanding reached by the two differently-formed categories of atheists who will strangle the oppressed nations more than ever, especially the Third World, Africa, and part of Central America, most of whom, unfortunately, are of the nation of Mohammad (peace be upon him). The world of Islam must do everything it can to strengthen an opposing hand dominated by the Islamic revolution and with full awareness, growth, and vigilance, to be able to stand up against the aspirations of world conquest in the two differently-named, singularly aimed camps, who will have more power than before, and it must equip itself with the means which has always enabled these bullies to dominate oppressed nations, and this means is none other than the advanced technology, science, and arts of the 20th century. Neither their intelligence and ingenuity nor their innate talents are greater than those of ourselves and the oppressed nations.

He then added: Islamic Iran is at the vanguard of this front and it has assumed a heavier obligation in this regard. If we want to see our great Imam's long-standing wish come true, we must build such unity in Iran's Islamic society that it will attract the attention of all the Muslim and even non-Muslim nations of the world. We must build a third force with solidarity and armed with the world's latest scientific information, so that we will have the world devourers' implements of domination. The greatest plague in the Islamic world now is the ugly face of discord and division created among the Muslim nations and the weak non-Muslim nations in recent centuries by the imperialists through subtle trickery. Unfortunately, we are the heirs to such a situation. Shadravan Eqbal Lahuri says: I do not know where it is written that the Muslims of the world must be so firmly united in their disunity. O Brother Muslim, when you question your recognized brother, who is the child of one martyred in times of oppression and corruption, because he has a direction in some place, don't you think you are biting your own hand? O religious brother, you who are prepared to drive your Muslim brothers out of the trenches of service, no matter what kind of affiliation you claim to have, do you know how happy and joyous you are making the enemies of Islam and the revolution? Therefore come and embrace your fellow combatant, support the nation, and make such a model of Islamic Iran that you will be able to attract all the oppressed nations and create a strong camp of commitment, piety, and specialization and you will be able to fight the bullies of the world. O martyr-nurturing, noble, and militant people, you know that for a decade your nation has fought with all its being with total courage and pride, under formidable blows from the enemies of humanity. Today, as in the past, your country needs your approval and cooperation to rebuild and repair the nation's economy. The Imam of the nation has called you the noblest and most combative nation among the united nations. O leaders and servants in this divine government, let us praise more than ever the worth of this loyal nation, let us revere them, and, as in the past, do not hesitate to make any sacrifice to solve problems, especially those of the deprived classes.

Mr. Taheri also added: Today is a time when all the basic slogans of the revolution must be put into practice, and the people must be involved in the management of all affairs with government supervision. For the deprived classes, especially the small and middle-income workers and laborers, it is a first priority to anchor the current inflation. A worker is shamed before the daily pressures of life, and his family is helpless before the profiteering middlemen who stalk executive government workers to solve their economic problems with enormous material proposals. Their faith and commitment is weakened and shaken in the face of the economic profiteers. The judiciary, which is charged with spreading social justice and procuring security of employment, economy, and prestige for the nation's units, must not be in a condition of difficulty with regard to living expenses, the economic needs of a judge must not damage him as he implements justice, while the superficial gold hoarders reach their objectives, and only a small group of people, the lower classes, are punished. Therefore, the noble judges must be procured at the first stage with regard to economics and matters pertaining to a livelihood so they will be able to carry out their heavy and sensitive responsibilities. Merely saying that the judges are noble and respectable will not solve their economic malfunctions and meet their daily needs.

Concerning the views of the Majles with regard to appointments, the speaker said: The Majles too must give full attention to the matter of appointments so that the nation's appointments will be made within a recognized and standard framework, to make the youth of their nation conform to these regulations and frameworks, so that, God forbid, personal taste will not obstruct appointments and personal likes and dislikes will not play a role in them, especially in the nation's small areas where everyone knows and has been dealing with everyone for years. Of course, we are not denying the endless labor of the innumerable toiling dear and committed people in the nation's various appointment cells.

He noted that the population growth that has now come about in the country has reached 3.8 to four percent. He said: In the next five, six, or 10 to 12 years, the nation will face problems that will need many years to solve. Therefore today, while we have the opportunity and we are able, why shouldn't we have a national population growth plan? In the years 1383 [21 March 2004-20 March 2004] and 1384 [21 March 2005-20 March 2006] the population will reach 100 million but all the resources and necessities will not have proportionately doubled, and we will be faced with problems. It would be better if the servants of the Islamic Republic and the great theologians take steps now to prevent society's uncontrolled population growth and offer a solution, for in the future it will be a disaster for the nation.

Elsewhere in his talk, the Moragheh deputy said:

The basic goal of the revolution was to promote social justice. Its economic goal was to reduce class differences and the difference between minimum and maximum incomes. The legislative power must set limits on property ownership in the Islamic government and it should specify the kind of economy, and until these two things are done it will be impossible to achieve economic stability. Until most of the social pieces are in place, our affairs will not be completely in order. The respected government, and especially the beloved president of the republic, must establish a mechanism for implementation so that the indecency of the factors shrinking relationships will become clear and they will not gradually develop into beliefs and traditions, for all the people are disgusted with this issue. God willing, the toiling government will take measures so that the merciless economy created by the war and increasing regional and world inflationary pressures will not have any more ill effects on morality and fundamentals. It is hoped that in the not-too-distant future the executive officials will remove many of these obstacles from the path of the people.

In conclusion, he discussed the problems in his own electoral district. He said: I ask the respected minister of power to allocate credit to study the Javan Qel'eh dam and the 'Ajab Shir area. I expect the respected minister of the interior to give the order converting the village center of Khodaju, which has 34,000 people, to a district. My highest praise and thanks are due to the respected minister of agriculture, Dr. Kalantari, for taking the trouble to travel to the Municipality of Moragheh and my electoral district to study the agricultural problems.

Finally, a memo to the toiling government to exercise a bit of caution with price increases and not haphazardly increase the price of some goods, for this causes inflation in the other sectors and parts of the nation's economy.

Mr. Panahandeh at Yesterday's Public Majles Session: Flattery and Influence Peddling Should Be Reduced in the Government

Mr. Panahandeh, Barkhar and Mimeh deputy, was the second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session. He began his talk by saying:

Our great and fateful Islamic revolution, which, under the prophetic leadership of the Imam (May God Have Mercy on Him), brought the unity of the people to victory and has been preserved up until now at the price of the blood of thousands of martyrs and the expenditure of billions of dollars of the nation's wealth, is now, through the grace of Almighty God, approaching its international goal, while today's world has been overtaken by atheism, unbelief, materialism, lust, and oppression, with the inspiration of the life-giving orthodoxy of Islam and the Islamic revolution of Iran, and one after the other the oppressed Muslim nations of the world are tearing down the bastions of materialism and recovering their own pure identity and essence. The revolutionary Muslims of Algeria have been victorious, and the Afghan Mujahidin are one step away from victory. In Jordan, Tunisia, and Morocco, Jordan's Husayn, Hasan of Morocco, and Ben 'Ali cannot sleep for fear of the revolutionary Muslims. The great eruption of the Islamic revival has sent Husni Mubarak sliding towards his overthrow, and the submissive tribal government of the Hijaz and the reactionary regimes of the region are shaking with fear of the Islamic revolution. In Turkey, Muslim women are fighting to keep their Islamic covering. These welcome developments have been inspired by our sacred Islamic revolution, and they double our responsibility to preserve the achievements of the revolution, which is the highest responsibility. We must overcome the defects and mistakes and put aside narrow thinking and harmful discord and present to the world a model of an Islamic government built on values and Islamic democracy. The slightest negligence in this matter desecrates the blood of the martyrs, and is betrayal not only of our nation, but of all Muslims, oppressed people, and future generations.

He listed the major points of this important responsibility. He said: (1) The most important problem in our country is inflation and high prices. Although the recent activities to increase production and make basic investments by the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the beloved president of the republic, are praiseworthy, they are certainly not sufficient, and I will state the reason now. Our administrative system is very worn-out and illogical. There are so many similar and duplicated centers in various areas of activity, especially for economic affairs and especially in the various and uncoordinated production channels, that no matter how much additional revenue we find to pour into this strange and amazing system, it will absorb it all like a bottomless pit, and we will neither succeed in overcoming economic problems, nor in promoting social justice and reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. I say it is strange and amazing because nowhere in the world, whether in despotic or democratic systems, will you find a country for example that has all these offices, staffs, buildings, machines, telephones, presidents, aides, and service personnel to help the needy, and this is from the government budget, not the private sector. These include the Imam's Relief Committee, the Foundation for the Oppressed, the Health Organization, the Red Crescent, and the numerous foundations and organizations whose names I will not mention, or for example for Islamic propagation there is the Ministry of Guidance, the

Propagation Organization, the Propagation Office, the Cultural Counselorship Office administered by the Foreign Ministry, and the like. My specific proposal is that just as the government has taken steps in this area and has consolidated the revolutionary guard, the army, and the Ministry of Defense and has consolidated the sheriff's offices, the komitehs, the gendarmerie, and the armed police forces, measures should be taken quickly and without wasting time to economize on current expenses and reduce the great monster of the localized administrative organizations, and you should not rule out any kind of measure, including the preparation of legislation or eliminating surplus positions.

(2) There is too much flattery in our government, and influence peddling is also very high, and these are both blots of shame on our government. You see that if the mother-in-law of an important figure dies, the front pages of the newspapers are filled with condolences for a month from companies, prominent individuals, and groups. This is such a joke. Aren't our people asking themselves if we don't have something more important to do in our country than worry about the death of some gentleman or appointee, when the people have to wait two or three months to receive coupons for detergent or chicken? Influence peddling is so extensive that most of the people say without a connection it is impossible to get anything done in any office. I ask the exalted leader of the revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, to use whatever means he considers appropriate in his talks to remove these two dark blots from our government and make the people happy. Condolences can be conveyed by letter, telegram, and telephone. Why fill the front pages of the newspapers?

(3) Those who say the government is an absolute dictatorship are liars and oppressors, and those who say there is total freedom are exaggerating. I call upon the nation's political and security insiders to clarify the framework of freedom of expression, so that if I want to say something I consider necessary, I can refrain from telling the truth out of fear of being labeled, becoming branded as an opponent of velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], and getting involved with the courts.

(4) I ask the exalted leader of the revolution who has rightfully invited the people several times during his Friday prayer sermon to economize on consumption to give the same order to the government organizations. Today's greatest waste and extravagance is taking place in the government organizations, from lavish parties with many kinds of expensive foods served together and trips abroad that recklessly spend the nation's dollars without accounting, to the many seminars, mostly without distinction, and the printing and distribution of magazines, newspapers, and bulletins, the contents of which unfortunately are mostly repetitive and useless, and printed on this expensive paper bought with dollars. What kind of situation is this? Our people live meager lives under the pressure of enormous costs. Why all this waste of the public treasury? Didn't Almighty God say: Indeed spendthrifts are brothers of devils, and Satan is ungrateful to his Lord [Quoting the Koran]. I fear, God forbid, that we may come to exemplify the noble verse from the Surah of the Bees, where God uses the example of a quiet and peaceful city with food and supplies coming to it in abundance from all directions, but the people were ungrateful for the blessings of God, and God adorned them with hunger and fear, the punishment for ingratitude to God's blessings. I hope that day will never come and that God will forgive us and protect our sacred revolution from every danger, bring joy to the chaste soul of our great Imam and our esteemed martyrs, and keep our dear leader in good health.

In conclusion, Mr. Panahandeh discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: I ask the Ministry of Petroleum to designate gas delivery officials for Barkhar and Mimeh and to continue gas delivery from Shahin Shahr to other points in Barkhar and to begin gas delivery at Mimeh.

I ask the Ministry of the Interior to expedite the establishment of a governor's office at Barkhar and Mimeh and the appointment of its governor. I ask the Ministry of Mines and Metals to disburse the credit that it has allocated to asphalt the Mimeh road and not to delay implementation of the project any longer. I ask the Ministry of Roads and Transport to expedite the completion of the Dowlatabad-Esfahan road.

Kamel Khayrkhah, Lahijan Deputy: If We Wish to Reduce Inflationary Pressures on Our Oppressed People, the Government and the Propagation Organizations Must Warn the People Against Excess Consumption

Mr. Kamel Khayrkhah, Lahijan deputy, was the third and final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session. He began his talk by sending praise and greetings to the chaste soul of Emam Khomeyni (Peace Be upon Him) and wishes of health for the exalted leader of the revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i.

He added: The Ba'thist regime has been procrastinating for some time on the implementation of Resolution 598, and has delayed it. Since the beginning of the war we have been telling the people of the world that the president of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq is a corrupt man and a troublemaker. He has never wanted and does not want a lasting peace and peaceful coexistence with his neighbors. It appears that all the nations of the world have realized that Saddam is sabotaging the peace, and he is killing time with vain and baseless excuses. The United Nations, and especially the several permanent members of the Security Council, as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council, which constantly pressured the Islamic Republic of Iran before the acceptance of the cease fire, must now apply political, economic, and military pressure to persuade Iraq to accept a lasting peace based on the Algiers Accord. Otherwise, the continuation of the current situation will always threaten the interests of the region, and such a situation will not be acceptable to the nation of Iran either. If the day comes when Iraq does not accept peace and continues to occupy part of the soil of the Islamic homeland of Iran, in violation of international criteria and of Resolution 598, the zealous nation of Iran will liberate all the land occupied by the boot-wearing Ba'thists of Iraq.

Continuing, Mr. Khayrkhah added: It is no secret to anyone that the economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not flourishing after eight years of imposed war. World imperialism has kept the price of oil at the lowest possible level to facilitate its pressure and its economic blockade, and it has glutted the world's oil markets by imposing upon the chiefs of the Islamic nations, who have most of the world's oil, and need to produce more of this substance, which is the lifeblood of the West's large and industrial factories, and they lowered the price of this vital substance and key to the West's power, to the detriment of the nations of the region. In view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's one-product economy, our nation is constantly subjected to economic damage. Under these circumstances, it is not at all advisable for us to continue increasing the expectations of the people, and to make random promises to them. Why are we arousing consumer expectations, instead of ordering people to economize? Didn't other war-stricken countries such as Germany, Japan, and other similar countries, teach their nations to make do with the basic necessities, in order to reach their economic goals and self-sufficiency?

I believe that if the government wishes to reduce the pressure of inflation on the oppressed people and to direct the nation's capital to the creation of producing factories, the creation of large dams, and to basic concerns such as petrochemical plants, agriculture, importing technology, and training specialist manpower, the government, the propagation organizations, and the media must warn the people away from consumption and avoid raising excess expectations.

He then discussed the two schools of thought in the government. He said: Everyone knows that in the country and among the revolutionary forces there are two schools of thought. The followers of each school support our departed Imam, may the praise and mercy of God be upon him, and both groups are loyal to the revolution and Islam. Currently the exalted leader uses both schools of thought in the various national and even key government posts, and he has issued the order that they be employed. Despite this, why in the Majles, which should be a refuge of hope and confidence for the nation, are some people saying things that resemble what is being said by the groups who are 100 percent opposed to us? These two schools of thought, who have no differences in terms of the basic principles and values of Islam and the revolution, sometimes raise issues in an inadequate or undigested way in the Majles or outside of it so that all the people cannot properly understand their views. I believe and I propose that the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran invite both groups to appear, and allow them to speak freely on their views concerning the economic and political issues and clarify them for the people. Consequently the people will be able to make a distinction between what is right and what is not, and they will be able to move with a completely clear view in their decisions and actions. During the most critical days of the revolution, didn't these people hear talk by opposing parties and counterrevolutionary groups, and didn't they decide to support and guard the revolution with all their being and sacrifices? Certainly, until the views of the factions with sound thinking are not made perfectly clear to the people in economic and political matters, the decision-making officials, who must respect the views of the people and must take steps to obtain those views in the nation's important affairs, will not have the courage, even in the nation's basic affairs, to act decisively, effectively, and vigorously.

The Lahijan deputy noted: Several times I have discussed the question of tea from this very rostrum, and in all of these talks I have had no objective other than the growth and expansion of the cultivation and industrial production of tea. Unfortunately, however, not only my remarks, but also the collective measures taken by the Gilan Province deputies seem not to have been that effective in improving the tea situation. The respected officials in the economic council, without hearing the just words of the people, without benefit of the logical reasoning of their representatives, and even without inviting the Gilan Province deputies to the meetings of the Economic Council when tea was being discussed, themselves decided in this regard, and consequently, instead of the growth and expansion of tea cultivation and the tea industry to reach self-sufficiency in this matter, which is possible and practical with a bit of attention, we see that the farmers have converted their tea plantings to orchards in some cases, or they are continuing to grow tea to their own detriment. As the people and you respected deputies know, the government sells imported tea for as much as 600 tomans, but why aren't they willing to sell the best quality of northern tea, which sells for less than half the price of imported tea? Of course, this year something was added to the price of green leaves, but we still have a long ways to go to reach half the price of foreign tea. Won't this sort of behavior discourage the people and belittle domestic agricultural production?

Mr. Khayrkhah thanked the toiling tea growers, who exercised the greatest care and cooperation in the delivery of green leaves, and delivered the best quality green leaves to the curing plants, and he thanked the Tea Organization and the plant owners for their sincere cooperation and for making the greatest effort in the acceptance of the green leaves and production.

Continuing, the speaker added: In the past the Council of Ministers, on the pretext that the Province of Gilan is an agricultural province, prevented the establishment of factories there with legislation. In view of the fact that in the Municipality of Lahijan alone, which is my electoral district, about 14,000 young people have registered as unemployed at the Labor and Employment Office in this municipality and are waiting to be called, for there is no prepared agricultural land where they can farm, the government must expand agriculture, build irrigation channels, and build the appropriate factories to create work for the unemployed. Instead of investing in development sectors, especially in agriculture, for this province has sufficient talent in this regard, the government first drastically reduced the province's credits, and second it increased the province's taxes. It has removed any possibility of allocating credit and carrying out projects. The hidden and devastating deprivation in the vast area of Siyahkal and Deylaman requires that the government invest for economic growth, and especially for the cultivation of rice and tea.

I say here that the Plan and Budget Organization, with the approval of a new law, must classify the Deylaman area as a deprived area, for it has all the characteristics of the deprived areas, so measures can be taken to alleviate the deprivation in this historic area with its grand past.

Mr. Khayrkhah also added: I deem it necessary to mention to the Central Friday Imams Office that in view of the changes that have occurred and the order given by the exalted leader, they must try to stop the illegal interference and unacceptable behavior of some of the Friday imams. They must not allow the pulpit at the Friday prayer service to be used as a place to apply pressure against those who stand in the way of their sometimes improper desires, and as a place where any kind of accusations and lies may be spread to the detriment of such people from the prayer pulpit. I reported cases pertaining to Lahijan to the Intelligence Office, and I will also make a written report, and it is expected that effective measures will be taken.

In conclusion, he issued a memo to the Gas Company to stop transferring the implements of work from Gilan Province to Azarbayjan Province, since the Province of Gilan is between the provinces of Azarbayjan and Mazandaran, and to continue to preserve the center of gas delivery operations where it has been in Gilan, and not to transfer implements from here to another place.

Deputies' Memos to the Nation's Executive Officials

- Mr. Mahmud Astaneh, Shazand and Sarband deputy:

To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, alleviate the shortage of physicians and ambulances in the Municipality of Sarband.

Mr. Hoseyni-Barzanji, Naqdeh and Oshnoviyeh deputy:

To the chief of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stop reducing the hours of broadcast on the national network.

Mr. Marvatollah Partow, Qidar deputy:

To the minister of education and training, about alleviating the shortage of experienced managers in the Municipality of Qidar, and alleviating the shortage of secondary and resident schools in the Mahmudabad, Garmab, Qeshlaq, Zarrinabad, and Nurabad areas, and elsewhere.

Mr. Heydar Moqaddam, Alshotor and Nurabad deputy:

To the minister of agriculture, establish rural service centers at the electoral district village centers, establish veterinary centers an Alshotor and Nurabad, and procure livestock medicine.

Mr. Mohammad Taqi-Ranjbar, Sume'ehsara deputy:

To the minister of culture and higher education and the Plan and Budget Organization, hire a contractor to carry out the half-finished agricultural training school and Sume'ehsara natural resources project.

Mr. Moslem Mirzapur, Rudbar deputy:

To the minister of education and training, expedite the construction of the rural teacher training school in Bostanabad.

Majles Speaker on Martyrdom Anniversary of Dr. Chemran

After the talks by the pre-agenda speakers, Mr. Karrubi discussed the anniversary on 31 Khordad [21 June] of the martyrdom of Dr. Chemran. He said: Dr. Chemran was a great, loyal, and combative fighter. While serving as a Majles deputy, as soon as the imposed war began he abandoned his seat in the Majles and went to the front.

He added: He is a great martyr and specialist, who with his advanced education and his outstanding specialization, did nothing in his proud life but fight, crusade, and act against infidelity and idolatry. This great martyr, who sought martyrdom many times on the path of God, until he finally achieved this great honor. Sincerity, simple living, following the Imam, concern for the deprived, and hostility towards the enemies of God were the characteristics of Martyr Chemran, who received special grace from His Holiness the Imam. The statement the Imam issued after his martyrdom, and the responsibility the Imam gave him during his life show the special position the late Chemran had. We commemorate this great martyr and once more we offer congratulations and condolences to his comrades in arms, to the nation of partisans of God of Iran, and to the Muslim nation of Lebanon on the martyrdom of Dr. Chemran.

Pakistan

Reportage on Kashmir, Indian Troop Buildup

Cheema: Unrest Could Trigger War

BK2607002490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1845 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 25 (AFP)—Pakistan is threatened by an Indian troop buildup along the border and fears that an intensification of unrest in Kashmir could trigger a war, Pakistan's minister of state for defense said Wednesday.

"The concentration of troops poses a threat to Pakistan's security," Ghulam Sarwar Cheema said, according to the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP). Mr. Cheema stressed that India had moved no new troops to the border region since heavily reinforcing its troops there during the spring, but he stressed the large-scale Indian military presence was "causing great concern to us."

His statement followed failed talks last week between the Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries on defusing tensions between the two countries, which have risen sharply due to a Moslem militant campaign in Indian Kashmir.

Mr. Cheema said he had seen "no positive change" in the situation, and feared that an "intensification of the Kashmiris' freedom struggle will increase the danger of war," APP reported.

Islamabad backs the Kashmiri Moslem campaign politically, but denies accusations from New Delhi that it is arming and training Kashmiri militants.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, where their armies face each other across a ceasefire line. The two countries are due to have a second round of talks in New Delhi on August 9-10.

In another development, Pakistani opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi called for "positive dialogue" with India, saying war would be destructive. He also criticized the government's policy in Sindh, which has been ravaged by ethnic strife, but pledged "unconditional" cooperation to restore law and order in the southern province. Mr. Jatoi said the combined opposition parties "did not have any objection" to using the Armed Forces to restore order in Sindh.

Decries Indian Troop Concentration

BK2607045990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, has said the Indian troop concentration along the borders has endangered the security of Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen on board the aircraft on his way to Moenjo Daro Airport, which was inaugurated by him yesterday, he said India's movement of troops close to the borders of Pakistan from the beginning of this year is a mater of concern to us. The minister of state said Pakistan has made all possible arrangements for its defense and the armed forces are fully prepared to meet any threat with professional alertness.

In reply to a question, the minister of state for defense rejected Indian allegations that Pakistan is dispatching trained persons into east Punjab and occupied Kashmir. He invited the journalists from all over the world to come to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir and see for themselves that Pakistan is not involved in any such activities. He said Pakistan has a just stand on Kashmir and it wishes to settle the issue according to UN resolutions and the Simla agreements.

Azad Kashmir Premier Criticizes India

BK2607051890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Mumtaz Hussain Rathod has said the Kashmiri people do not recognize the so-called annexation of their state with India, as, according to the aspirations of the people, a plebiscite was not held under UN supervision in Kashmir. Answering queries on Kashmir to international mass media in Islamabad, he said India is occupying a major portion of Jammu and Kashmir against the will of the Kashmiri people and they have staged an uprising against this illegitimate domination. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister said the Muslim minorities in the occupied Kashmir are in support of the annexation of their state with Pakistan.

General Says Army Takeover Will Ruin Pakistan

BK2507112990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1049 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 25 (AFP) - The Pakistan Army should on no account interfere in the political affairs of the country, a top general has said here.

"We have more than burned our fingers," said Lieutenant General Alam Jan Mahsud, the outgoing corps commander of Lahore, warning that any further attempt by the army to come to power could lead the country into ruin.

"If there were no Pakistan, there would be no Pakistan army," the general remarked.

Pakistan has been ruled by a military dictatorship for more than half of its 43-year history, but returned to party-based democratic rule after general elections in 1988. The elections were the first for 11 years and followed the death of President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The split mandate given to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in 1988 led to a bitter confrontation between her federal government and two of Pakistan's four provinces. The tussle between Ms. Bhutto and the opposition-led government in the Punjab, which provides the bulk of the army's recruits, has endangered the nascent democracy in Pakistan.

Rumours of a return to martial law circulated recently as the PPP-led government in her home province of Southern Sindh invited the army to quell the bloody ethnic violence of May and June which left more than 350 people dead. Army commanders in Sindh called for legal powers to tackle the situation but the Bhutto government refused on human rights grounds.

If an army officer was obliged to do something other than his professional duties he felt irritated, Lt. Gen. Mahsud said at a reception on the eve of his retirement late Tuesday [24 July].

Stressing that the present leadership of the Pakistani army had no political ambitions, he called on government leaders to avoid any political situation that might require army intervention. Political problems must be solved through the political process and the army should only defend the borders, Lt. Gen. Mahsud said.

The general played a key role in the country's biggest ever military exercise last winter. Assuming command of enemy forces in mock battles, he recorded important military strategies which defence specialists said would prove invaluable in the event of renewed hostilities with India.

Majid Nizami, editor of the country's influential Urdu daily Nawa-I-Waqt who hosted the reception, spoke of the need to keep the Armed Forces in a state of preparedness."

"No matter what may happen and what temptation is created" for the Armed Forces, the Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg should not leave his present position, Mr. Nizami said.

Gen. Beg should not change his present policy of "let the civilians rule the country," the editor said.

'Handful' of Afghan Refugees Depart Under Plan

BK2507162690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, July 25 (AFP)—Only a handful of Afghan refugees took part in a U.N.-sponsored repatriation program which started Wednesday, U.N. and local officials said. The United Nations and the Pakistani Government are seeking under the program to persuade 250,000 Afghan refugees to return to their homeland in the next three months.

Michel Gabaudan, representative for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Pakistan's Balochistan Province, said at the end of the day that his office had noticed virtually no movement of refugees towards the Afghan border. He said "only one family of six" went to offices of the National Bank of Pakistan to turn in their ration cards for the equivalent of 150 dollars and 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of wheat provided by the joint plan.

The U.N. official said there had been evidence of intimidation in the refugee camps by certain fundamentalist Afghan guerrilla groups hostile to the repatriation plan. A local Pakistani official said that only three or four families had quit his sector.

"We'll see tomorrow," said Munir Ahmed Babini, assistant commissioner in charge of refugees in the Pishin District, near this capital of Balochistan Province. He said he received no reports of violence from the 14 camps under his control.

"It's a pilot program, it wasn't obligatory," he added.

More than 3.2 million Afghan refugees are living in Pakistan, about 850,000 of whom are registered in Balochistan and the rest in the North West Frontier Province, where the program will be launched on Saturday. Another two million Afghan refugees live in Iran.

The United Nations has expressed concern that donor countries are not doing enough to deal with the refugee problem, while Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has increasingly indicated her desire to get rid of the political and financial burden the refugees represent.

The 11-year war in Afghanistan, which has left more than one million dead, grinds on despite the Soviet withdrawal in February 1989.

Some Afghan guerrilla parties have rejected the repatriation plan, saying it is part of an "international conspiracy" aimed at legitimizing the pro-Soviet Government of President Najibullah and blocking an Islamic government from taking power in Kabul.

Sri Lanka

37 Rebels Reported Killed in Jaffna 25 Jul

BK2507091690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 37 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men were reported killed today and several others injured in the heavy fighting with the Sri Lankan forces at (Karadipukku) near Elephant Pass in Jaffna District. Four soldiers were also killed in the four-hour battle that followed the capture of Paranthan town by the army on Monday [23 July]. Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppaswamy, understands that the three-day battle for Paranthan left more than 70 LTTE men killed and several others injured.

In Kilinochchi, over 1,000 troops are engaged in a major battle to rescue soldiers who have been under siege by the LTTE for the last six weeks. According to official reports from Colombo, the LTTE has blasted a railway bridge connecting the mainland with the island in Mannar. Elsewhere in the Eastern Province, three LTTE men and two civilians were reported killed in clashes between security forces and the LTTE.

Government Denies LTTE Freed Abducted Policemen

BK2507102190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0842 GMT 25 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 25 July (LANKAPUVATH)—The government has denied reports that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has freed any abducted policemen. Commenting on a statement made by Yogaratnam Yogi, the political secretary of the LTTE, Plantation Industries Minister and Defence State Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said: "If they are releasing any of the policemen they have abducted they are supposed to hand them over to the International Commission for the Red

Cross [ICRC]. The ICRC has been making this request to the Tigers. But this has not been forthcoming".

Last month, the Tigers had got nearly eight hundred policemen in police stations in the north and the east who surrendered to them. Forty-two policemen held in captivity by the Tigers in an LTTE camp in the east have made their escape after killing their captors.

In a statement received in Colombo yesterday the LTTE said it freed 17 from the Kilinochchi section last Saturday in the presence of pressmen.

Yogaratnam Yogi was quoted as telling reporters that all policemen in the LTTE custody would be released in batches.

The government has said that over 300 of the policemen abducted by the terrorists had been killed by the terrorists. The government had also said that they believed the Tigers had butchered all policemen who had surrendered to them. Yogi said that the LTTE had begun releasing the policemen to blunt the government's malicious propaganda and disprove the government's claim that the LTTE had killed all the policemen who had surrendered.

Meanwhile, three mass graves were discovered at Rufus Kulam near Tirukkovil in which the bodies of several policemen who surrendered to the LTTE last month had been found.

LTTE 'Act of Reprisal' in Polonnaruwa Reported

BK2507141390 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1251 GMT 25 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 25 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Eight Sinhalese villagers, including two children—a girl of five years and a three-year-old boy—and 2 women were shot and hacked to death by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists, Tuesday night, at Dammina/Nidanwila, Aralaganwila in the Polonnaruwa District.

One other woman was seriously injured.

It is reported that the LTTE attack on huts in this isolated village was launched at 2000 hours (local time), Tuesday as an act of reprisal by the LTTE as 39 policemen who had escaped from LTTE custody had gone through this village to the Aralaganwila police station.

A government communique issued today states that during the last 24 hours ending 12 noon today, the security forces consolidated their positions further in the northern and eastern provinces. During cordon and search operations in the Uppodai area of Batticaloa, security forces killed one LTTE terrorist attempting to break out from the cordon.

In the Trincomalee District, the security forces have now secured the bridge at Irakkandy which connects the Trincomalee-Nilaweli road.

In the Northern Province, the security forces who were operating in the Elephant Pass area a few days earlier had consolidated themselves in Paranthan, south of Elephant Pass, and advanced into Kilinochchi last afternoon. In doing so, the security forces met with stiff LTTE terrorist resistance at Karadipokku, very close to Kilinochchi.

Meanwhile, in Uppuaru, west of Muttur, the LTTE terrorists set fire to two houses belonging to the Muslims of the area and also killed one Muslim civilian of Surangal.

The LTTE terrorists committed this act of reprisal as the Muslim community had not co-operated with the terrorists when they tried to seek refuge and merge with the Muslim community when the security forces conducted operations in this area a few days ago, security sources said.

Government troops pushing forward after taking Paranthan town Monday [23 July] have linked up with security forces at Kilinochchi.

In this forward thrust, 4 security forces personnel were wounded and 28 LTTE terrorists were accounted for as killed. More casualties among LTTE are very likely, the sources said.

Troops Liberate 'Vital' Town in 'Fierce Fighting'

BK2507150490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1435 GMT 25 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—After fierce fighting which lasted for several days Sri Lankan security forces using air cover have taken the vital northern town of Kilinochchi, south of the Elephant Pass causeway from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] today. Reports reaching LANKAPUVATH state that the final thrust to Kilinochchi began on Monday [23 July] after government troops had taken the town of Paranthan where the rebels were occupying a state owned chemical factory which the government was careful to avoid being destroyed. The reports said that LTTE terrorists fighting on familiar ground tried to hold out against determined government troops who are now veteran combatants on northern terrain.

According to official sources Kilinochchi, which borders the Jaffna Penunsula, was of vital importance to reach mainland and the taking of it by security forces is considered a major advance.

Official accounts gave four security forces wounded and 28 LTTE men killed. There were also reports that 75 more LTTE terrorists had been killed in this week's fighting.

Security Forces Poised To Attack Guerrilla Base

BK2507153190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1507 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (AFP)—Government security forces were poised Wednesday to attack Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula, the main Tamil guerrilla base, after securing a key approach, military officials here said.

"We are resting our troops prior to the attack," one official said, adding that it was expected to commence within the next 48 hours.

Preparations for the massive assault on Jaffna, the stronghold of Tamil militancy in the island, were completed when security forces Tuesday wrested control of the strategic Kilinochchi-Paranthan-Elephant Pass axis after days of heavy fighting. The three areas lead progressively to Jaffna.

The officials said the forces now controled the 100-kilometer (60-mile) stretch of road up to the pass from Vavuniya, a major Army and Air Force base to the south, facilitating free movement of troops.

"Almost all our Air Force planes and helicopters are amassed in Vavuniya to take part in the attack on Jaffna," another official said. He said about 7,000 to 8,000 troops would take part in the offensive along different fronts.

Jaffna is the home of most leaders of the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), including its legendary leader, V. Prabhakaran.

Military analysts here said the battle for the control of Jaffna would be hard and bitter as the LTTE, unlike in the east where they withdrew in the face of advancing troops, would stand and fight.

"The fall of Jaffna to the troops would be a big blow to the Tigers' image of invincibility," one analyst said.

Indian troops, sent to keep peace in the northeast under a July 1987 pact between Colombo and New Delhi, had fought the LTTE and taken control of Jaffna after the rebels repudiated the agreement.

But control of the town was gained at a heavy cost, as nearly 300 of about 1,200 Indian soldiers killed during their 32-month mission in the island were lost in the Jaffna assault.

Officials said the general perception among top military officials was that the campaign against the LTTE would not succeed unless the rebels were routed in Jaffna.

"Otherwise the sore will continue to fester," one official said, adding that it was this perception which prompted the military to "shift gear" from the east and launch operations in the north.

Meanwhile, military spokesmen said the rebels Tuesday blasted the rail bridge linking the northern island of Mannar with the mainland, causing heavy damage. They said in another incident, LTTE rebels sneaked into the Sinhalese village of Arunapura on the border of Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa districts in the east and hacked to death nine villagers, including two women and two children. Security was tightened in vulnerable Sinhalese villages bordering the northeast in the wake of the present hostilities as the LTTE is known to have attacked these villages in the past.

The spokesmen said in other incidents reported during the last 24 hours, troops successfully cleared the areas around the Kilinochchi Army camp, which had been under siege by the rebels for the past 30 days.

They said four soldiers were wounded in the operations, while seven to eight rebels were believed killed when helicopter gunships attacked LTTE positions around the camp.

Troops from Killinochchi, Paranthan and Elephant Pass had since then successfully linked up, clearing the way for the attack on Jaffna.

But the spokesman said the fleeing rebels had blasted most government buildings in Killinochchi, including the district administrative secretariat building, police station and the general hospital.

They said one rebel was shot dead during clearing operations by the security forces in the Uhana area of eastern Ampara District.

Two Muslims were killed and four wounded when armed guerrillas forced their way into a mosque at Sammanthurai in the same district and opened fire, they said.

The rebels also set fire to several houses belonging to Muslims in the Uppuaru area of neighboring Trincomalee District and shot dead a Muslim civilian in an adjoining village, the spokesmen added.

Army Takes Control of Trincomalee 26 Jul

BK2607075290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] According to agency reports, the Sri Lankan forces are reported to have taken control of the strategic eastern Trincomalee town today. The Sri Lankan Army commander, Brigadier Lucky Wijeratne, claimed to have driven back the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants into the nearby jungles after intense fighting. Reports say normal life came to a standstill. Streets wore a deserted look, and more civilians have either fled the town or sought refugee in temples and churches. Military authorities continue to drop leaflets in the surrounding jungles requesting the civilians to come back to their homes assuring them rehabilitation. The newly formed Trincomalee Citizen's Committee in engaged to trace the missing persons in cooperation with the existing local authorities.

Meanwhile, the LTTE militants killed 42 villagers in five northern and eastern villages till yesterday. Military officials in Colombo said these killings occurred in those villages, where the people gave shelter to the fleeing policemen.

President Premadasa Receives PLO Special Envoy

BK2507120190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of the state of Palestine [title as received], 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hijlah [alias] Abu-Ja'far, called on President R. Premadasa yesterday at the presidential secretariat as a special envoy of President Yasir 'Arafat. He was accompanied by Ahmad al-Farah, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Malaysia and Umar Abu Rashid, charge d'affaires and head of the Palestinian mission in Sri Lanka. The minister of justice, A.C.S. Hameed, was associated with the president at this meeting.

Mr. Abu-Ja'far handed over to the president a message from Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. The visiting deputy foreign minister of Palestine conveyed to the president the appreciation of the government and the people of Palestine for the steadfast support they have received for their cause from the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. He made particular reference to the courageous step taken by the Government of Sri Lanka in terminating the Israeli interests section. He noted that such measures are invaluable in the international efforts to influence the Israeli authorities to resume negotiations on the Palestinian issue.

President Premadasa briefed the Palestinian envoy on the current situation in Sri Lanka. He reiterated the position of the government that it was always ready to settle outstanding problems through negotiations. The president recounted a recent event which culminated in the present conflict being forced on the government by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

The Palestinian envoy informed the president that the state of Palestine supports the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. He added that president Yasir 'Arafat will brief other Arab leaders about the present problem facing Sri Lanka.